

# ESTATES LAND ACT COMMITTEE



## ORAL EVIDENCE

### PART IV

(Translations of Tamil and Telugu Depositions)



MADRAS

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS

1938

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# ESTATES LAND ACT COMMITTEE

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## ORAL EVIDENCE

### PART IV

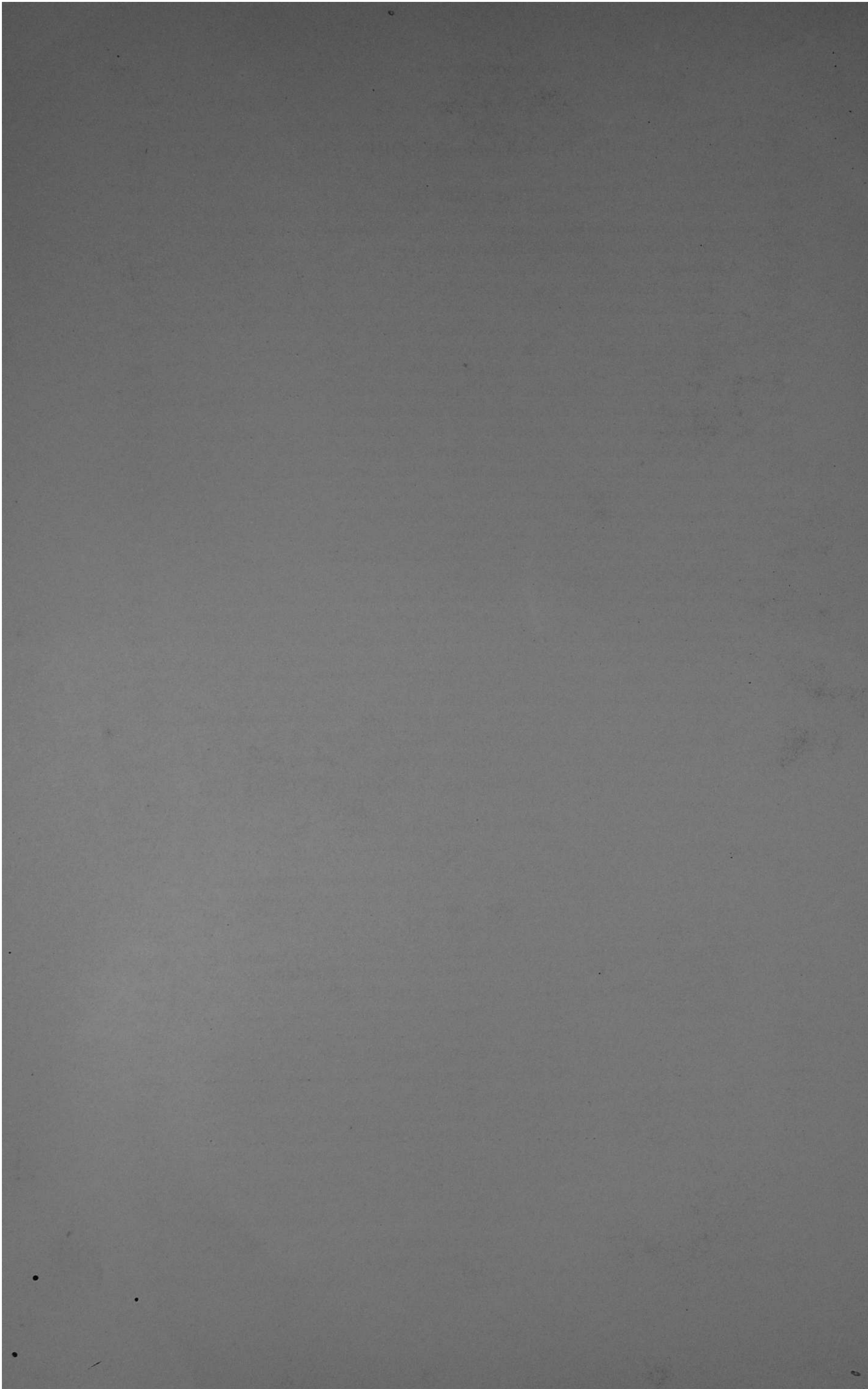
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## PREFATORY NOTE

This volume consists of the English Translations of the Oral Evidence given in Telugu and Tamil which appear in Parts I, II and III.

T. VISWANATHAM,  
*Secretary.*



THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FROM 1630 TO 1880  
BY  
JOHN B. HENNINGSEN





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# ESTATES LAND ACT COMMITTEE

## ORAL EVIDENCE—PART IV

### TRANSLATIONS OF TAMIL AND TELUGU DEPOSITIONS

Witness No. 1.

Vizagapatam.

7th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Madina Papayya Nayudu, Mandapalle, Thalathampara mittah, Chikati estate, Sompeta taluk.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Which is your native place?

A.—Mandapalle, Thalathampara muttah, Chikati estate.

Q.—What is your father's name?

A.—Madini Venkataswami.

Q.—Your age?

A.—55.

Q.—What have you to represent? Have you presented a written petition?

A.—We have sent a written petition about the muttah as a whole.

Q.—Do you know why this Committee is here?

A.—I came to know that it would enquire into the relations existing between zamindars and ryots in estates.

Q.—What have you got to say in respect of your estate?

A.—Ours is a part of one muttah. Chikati has gone to Orissa. This belongs to Chikati estate.

Q.—This is Chikati Zamindari, is it not? You please say what you have to say?

A.—They gave it in the past as "Mustazari".

Q.—When and how long ago was it given? Was it in your time or in the time of your father?

A.—In my time only. It was given as "Mustazari" for the total sum of Rs. 12,000 on the basis of a fixed share for each village. It was given for Rs. 10 to 12 thousands, each village being given over to a number of persons ranging from 10 to 12.

Q.—For how much was your muttah given?

A.—It was given *villagewar* (village by village).

Q.—How many years ago was this given as stated by you?

A.—Twenty-three years ago.

Q.—You say village by village and muttah by muttah was given as "Mustazari". Is it not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What does the sum of Rs. 12,000 mentioned by you mean?

A.—They gave it village by village for a fixed sum.

Q.—Does the register contain this?

A.—Yes, it does. For 17 years even after survey was effected, rough pattas only were given. In the past they used to measure (lands) and then issue pattas.

Q.—(Referring to a document), so much money?

A.—This is the amount entered in the schedule.

Q.—Such a large sum! For how much the patta was issued? How much was covered by your land in it?

A.—Of it 4 acres 60 cents is wet land and the remainder, gardens and dry land, all told, comes to 5 acres.

Q.—What is the rent for your land?

A.—Rs. 6 per acre is one rate and Rs. 5, another and 1 anna 6 pies per tree.

Q.—How much did you pay for the patta on the whole?

A.—Rs. 50 and odd.

Q.—Per year?

A.—Yes.



Q.—How much per tree?

A.—One anna six pies per tree.

Q.—To what trees do you refer?

A.—Coconut trees.

Q.—What is the number of trees? The land on which the tree stand does not bear tax; is it not?

A.—I do not know the number of trees. There is no tax for the land on which the trees stand.

Q.—One anna six pies is the tax where there are trees. For land where there are no coconut trees, were you paying land-tax separately?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do the trees mentioned in your patta refer to the trees standing on all the lands put together?

A.—There are lands which contain trees and lands which do not contain them. There are holdings which include both these (types).

Q.—Was the patta granted for ten years?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What did they do after ten years?

A.—After ten years, nominal survey was effected and these rough pattas were granted.

Q.—How many days after the end of ten years, were they granted?

A.—After the close of ten years they were granted.

Q.—Under this, what was the change effected?

A.—Under this, some land was taxed at Rs. 8 per acre and some other land at Rs. 8-8-0 per acre.

Q.—Was it given since fasli 1328?

A.—Only a little was given since fasli 1328.

Q.—Were the rates higher than those prevailing in the past?

A.—(The patta issued in fasli 1328, Exhibit B.)

Q.—Were the rates increased and pattas granted on different rates?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the increase now?

A.—The increase is one or two rupees per acre.

Q.—What is the approximate increase according to your calculation?

A.—Where Rs. 50 used to be paid formerly, now I think it has come to Rs. 60.

Q.—What is the difference between the patta formerly granted and this? Is it not in respect of rent?

A.—The patta granted in the past was a "Mustazari" patta. That had been adjusted, the very system having been changed, and another patta had been granted.

Q.—You said that in the beginning the whole thing was given as a joint patta for Rs. 12,000?

A.—The joint rent for 25 villages was Rs. 12,000.

Q.—Your share comes to Rs. 50 and odd; is it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Of Rs. 12,000 Rs. 700 has been fixed for your village. Of the latter, what does your share come to?

A.—For me it has come to Rs. 50 nearly.

Q.—You said that on the whole for all the villages jointly, for more than 20 years you paid Rs. 12,000. What was the system subsequently introduced?

A.—They did not grant again joint pattas, but granted pattas only individually.

Q.—You have said the rent is now higher than before?

A.—Yes. The rent originally fixed was based on the system of joint patta-registry. Subsequently, they granted separate pattas saying that they were survey pattas. The rent has increased under survey pattas.

Q.—You said that a patta for Rs. 12,000 was granted for ten years and that subsequently pattas were granted individually?

A.—Though a registered patta was granted the sum of Rs. 12,000 became Rs. 23,000 in this patta. After the survey was over (Exhibit A) and after pattas were granted individually, it came to Rs. 23,000 and over. He said that it represented survey pattas.



Q.—Why did Rs. 12,000 go up to Rs. 23,000?

A.—The number of trees, the changes effected in lands, a particular sum being fixed as rent for a particular land, the increase in extent of lands noticed during the survey—all these contributed to the enhancement of rent.

Q.—Was the increase effected as so much per acre?

A.—The rent was also increased as so much per acre.

Q.—Apart from the excess relating to survey, what is the increase per acre?

A.—The rent has increased by Re. 1, Re. 1-8-0 and even Rs. 2 per acre.

Q.—You say that the rent was increased. For how many years was it increased?

A.—It was paid by some and was not paid by some others.

Q.—How long was it in dispute?

A.—For about 17 to 18 years, it has been in dispute.

Q.—After the rent was increased were there persons who did not pay rent at all?

A.—Tenants have been at pains to pay the rent. Some have been at pains and some have not.

Q.—Was your village surveyed?

A.—It was surveyed.

Q.—Was it surveyed by Government or by the zamindars? By whom was it surveyed?

A.—It is not known whether the Government or the zamindar effected the survey. Formerly, we used to measure (lands) with a rope.

Q.—Are the lands in your village dry or wet?

A.—There are hills and dry lands, which are always fallow. Some, "thamparas (plots of land)" are "absolutely saline". They are lands which are useful in supplying "manure (earth for bleaching purposes)" for clothes.

Q.—How many tanks are there in your muttah?

A.—There are 20 tanks.

Q.—By whom were they dug?

A.—It is not known by whom they were dug. They have been in existence since my boyhood.

Q.—Who does repairs to them?

A.—The zamindar himself used to do.

Q.—Who was doing repairs to tanks when pattas were granted as "Mustazari"?

A.—The zamindars themselves would do (in the case of) "Mustazaris".

Q.—You please speak about your village?

A.—In our village, repairs are not being done and we have filed some suits also.

Q.—What suits have been filed?

A.—Suits have been filed for execution of repairs to tanks. They have gone to the Magistrates' Courts.

Q.—Have you any papers relating to tank-suits?

A.—I have not got them now with me. We have filed the suits before the Collector.

Q.—When did you file a suit before the Collector about the tanks?

A.—Two years ago.

Q.—In 1934?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What was its result?

A.—It has come to the Magistrate for trial.

Q.—Has he given his decision or not?

A.—No decision has been given.

Q.—Have you not got the connected papers?

A.—I shall say after seeing (the papers).

Q.—Are there any suits between you and the zamindars?

A.—They (zamindars) wouldn't file suits themselves. They would engage a ryot to file them. (Here he presents a document and says) They induce a ryot to file a suit against us.



Q.—What is your name? Madina l'apayya; who is Madina Latchayya and who is Gaddeyya?

A.—He is a different person.

Q.—Is this all what you have about tanks?

A.—The court itself granted a decree.

Q.—Where are the papers?

A.—We have given vakalat and they are with the person who has accepted the vakalat.

Q.—Have suits been filed with regard to the enhancement of rent?

A.—When a suit was filed against me, I did not go; ex parte decrees were passed.

Q.—You say that suits for the enhancement of rent are pending?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is your complaint about the zamindar?

A.—He wouldn't do repairs to tanks properly and he has increased assessments.

Q.—Have you inams?

A.—I have "Darimila Inams." They have been charging for them rents which are heavier than those applicable to the adjoining lands.

Q.—You say by how much the rent has been increased?

A.—It has increased by *cent per cent*.

Q.—What is the rent you are now paying and what is the rent which the zamindar has asked you to pay? How much do you say you will pay?

A.—They wouldn't ask me.

Q.—For how much has he filed a suit?

A.—He has filed a suit for about Rs. 100.

Q.—Your zamindar has filed a suit. By how much you want it to be reduced?

A.—I want a reduction by Rs. 1, 2 and Rs. 3 per acre. In some years, the land would give an yield and in some others it does not. In some years there would be loss of crops owing to winds and pests.

Q.—Do you say that you would give anything to the zamindars?

A.—Let them take what remains after giving us what is required for our food.

Q.—How much of the produce raised by you would be sufficient for your food?

A.—We are eating what we have been producing and the balance we are giving to them. If we sell the whole (produce) then we would be able to know it. We can pay only in kind. How can we pay in money? We can only give the produce we have raised. How can we pay money?

Q.—Of the produce raised, how much can you give?

A.—We can fix it as so much and say it.

Q.—Would you give one-half?

A.—When the lands give an yield I would give one-half after deducting the expenses.

Q.—What is the amount you fix in documents? Circumstances being favourable, what proportion does it (the share you can give to the zamindar) bear to the produce raised by you? This is not a suit in a Court. Do not be afraid. You must speak fairly. It is one way of saying that I would give if I have and would not give if I do not have. Would it be fair for you to say that the whole produce raised by you would be sufficient for your family expenses? Are you in arrears to the zamindar?

A.—(Having had to incur expenditure) I did not pay one year's arrear. Thereafter, I paid a little "peshkash."

Q.—What do you mean by payment of "peshkash?"

A.—Government came and effected "distrain."

Q.—In what year?

Q.—The year before last year.

Q.—What was the amount of your arrear?

A.—I did not compare accounts with the zamindar.



Q.—You said pattas were granted?

A.—(Issue of) pattas came to an end 15 years ago.

Q.—You said that a joint patta was granted for Rs. 12,000 in the beginning and that pattas were subsequently granted individually?

A.—Subsequent to the grant of joint patta for Rs. 12,000, pattas had been granted individually for 15 years. It is three years since the 15 years' period ended.

Q.—Is the land in your possession?

A.—The joint patta was granted for Rs. 12,000. Subsequently pattas were granted for 15 years and it is two or three years since they lapsed.

Q.—Were not pattas granted thereafter? What is the dispute between you and the zamindar?

A.—He is trying to confirm the present " peshkash " and the present rents.

Q.—Was the distraint in respect of an arrear which was prior to 15 years?

A.—The distraint was made on the score of cultivation without patta and not in respect of anything done in the past.

Q.—How many years have elapsed since the distraint was removed?

A.—One crop has been harvested since the distraint was removed.

Q.—How much have you to pay?

A.—We have collectively paid the amount.

Q.—For your share, how much have you to pay?

A.—I cannot say it unless I look into the receipt.

Q.—Have you the receipt?

A.—I have not brought the receipt acknowledging payment of money.

Q.—To which Revenue Inspector did you make the payment?

A.—We paid it in Sompeta.

Q.—You have come to attend the enquiry. If you want to say anything more, say it?

A.—I have nothing more to say.

Q.—The rent for Mandapalli village is Rs. 700. What is the ayacut?

A.—Yes. I do not know the ayacut.

Q.—What is the total produce of the village? What is the quantity of the grain?

A.—After all what produce, sir!

Q.—What is the yield of coconuts?

A.—Twenty panas.

Q.—How many coconuts make a pana?

A.—Eighty coconuts.

Q.—How many trees are there for the village on the whole?

A.—Nearly 1,000 trees.

Q.—How many coconuts would one thousand trees yield?

A.—If we pluck one or two, we would eat them. How can we define the quantity. It would come to four or five panas.

Q.—For how much do you pay Rs. 60?

A.—Four acres of wet land and 5 acres of dry land yields two carts of paddy and one or two panas of coconuts.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—How many tanks are there in your village? What is the extent of wet land?

A.—Two tanks. I cannot say the extent of wet land.

Q.—Are there no sluices?

A.—One tank has it. The sluice of another tank has crumbled and the zamindar would not repair it.

Q.—Does the zamindar do any repairs? Does the zamindar own any land in your village? Who would distribute water?

A.—The zamindar would not do repairs. All the villagers share the water together.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there any streams and the like?

A.—None.

Q.—Would they give receipts?

A.—They may or may not give according to their pleasure.



Q.—Have they given them to you?

A.—They have given them to me.

Q.—Who used to give receipts? Would they give receipts in the case of arrears?

A.—Those who are present would give receipts. They would not give receipts in respect of arrears.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You have said that you own 4 acres and 60 cents of wet lands. What crops have you grown therein this year?

A.—We have grown paddy in it.

Q.—Is there water in the tank? What was the produce raised?

A.—It came to three carts—21 bags.

Q.—How much rent do you pay for it?

A.—I pay Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 8 per acre.

Q.—What crop do you grow in the dry land?

A.—Ragi and vegetables.

Q.—Can we take it that this year the dry lands has given an yield?

A.—This year owing to want of rain, there has been no yield.

Q.—How many coconut trees are there?

A.—There are 100 trees for 5 acres (of land).

Q.—How many coconuts did they yield?

A.—We cannot say what yield we have derived. Whenever we want, we would eat them.

Q.—How much land is there in the village?

A.—I am paying a rent of Rs. 60.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the arrear due from you to the zamindar?

A.—I do not know it. We have been paying "peshkashs" for three years. We are not in a position to say whether we are in arrears or not. For three years past the zamindar has not demanded rent.

Q.—Have you inam lands in the village?

A.—I had no inam land but have purchased one.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is there inam in any other village and how much rent is being paid for the same?

A.—Yes. We pay at Re. 0-4-0 per acre for inam lands.

Q.—You have to pay separately to the zamindar in respect of inam land; is it not? Have you purchased an inam land without taking into account this fact?

A.—They say that the Government have enhanced the taxes paid to them. The same is being demanded (from us). If it is not paid, suits are being filed.

Q.—Do you say that the zamindar has increased the rent? What is the expense incurred for the cultivation of land that you have? What does the cultivation cost per acre?

A.—Seeds for one acre would cost Rs. 20. In the expense for a holding has to be included the expenditure on livestock. Dry lands require a greater number of ploughings.

Q.—Of the produce raised by you, how much do you give to the zamindar?

A.—In a year when there has been a yield, if he comes and takes whatever he wants after inspection, that I would give. Whatever he takes I would give.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—You say that the rent has now been increased. Does the zamindar demand the increase in view of the repairs, etc., done by him to tanks.

A.—The rent has been increased on the assurance that repairs would be done. No repairs have been done.

Q.—Are there Government lands adjoining yours?

A.—There are Government lands adjoining ours.

Q.—Is there any difference between the assessments paid on Government lands and the rents paid by you? What does the Government ryot pay and what do you pay?

A.—There is 50 per cent difference. The Government take revenue, carrying on the administration with justice. The zamindar does not know administration. Every one is trying to hit (zamin ryots?).

Q.—You say that there is a difference of 50 per cent?

A.—Yes, sir.

(Morning proceedings closed.)



Witness No. 3.

Vizagapatam.

7th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Bade Venkata Reddi Nayudu, son of Narayanadas Nayudu, aged 40 years, Ravivalasa village, Patha Tekkali estate.

Q.—In which estate is your (village)?

A.—It is in patha (old) Tekkali estate.

Q.—Do you hold any office?

A.—No, I am a ryot.

Q.—Have you given anything in writing?

A.—Yes. I have already done so through Mr. Syamasundra Row on behalf of Tekkali Ryots' Association.

Q.—Have you come on behalf of that Association?

A.—I am the President thereof.

Q.—When was the resettlement of Tekkali effected?

A.—No resettlement has taken place. The initial settlement was done in 1929; in the case of some villages it was done in 1932 and in the case of some others in 1930.

Q.—Was it the first settlement?

A.—It was the first settlement.

Q.—On what basis were the rates of assessment fixed prior to the said settlement?

A.—There used to be the practice of lease in certain villages before estimates used to be prepared for the holdings of each ryot. Those which were not leased would be charged a fixed rent and then given to ryots in auction. Those plots of land which remained subject to the estimate of the ryots were put to auction and given over to the ryots. Some portion of the lands remained under settlement and some under the estimate system. There has been no Government settlement.

Q.—Please explain what is meant by the then system of lease?

A.—They used to call the elders in the village together, see what produce the village on the whole would yield, fix the prices, form an idea of the first crop, assemble some people, hold an auction and grant leases (of land) to the highest bidders.

Q.—In the case of such an auction, who used to pay to the Zamindar the assessment on the land so auctioned?

A.—The successful bidders at the auction used to pay this amount.

Q.—How was the amount collected?

A.—They (the ryots) used to apportion it among themselves.

Q.—You said that it was leased. Should the successful bidders in the auction thus pay to the zamindar?

A.—Yes. The purchasers themselves would make an allotment for each ryot.

Q.—When was the last auction held?

A.—It was 14 years ago. There was no lease prior to this period of 14 years.

Q.—What arrangements were made by the purchasers in the auction, among themselves?

A.—All the ryots used to pay jointly the whole amount, the patta being held in the name of a single individual.

Mr. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Were all outsiders prohibited from bidding?

A.—That was in vogue in the past.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What was the system existing in the past? And how long was it in force?

A.—For about 10 or 15 years it went on. Now for the last 14 years it has changed and the ryotwari estimation method has taken its place. The system of lease involves many disadvantages.

Q.—What do you mean by estimation?

A.—Zamindars used to send their own people and get estimates. It is only this that gives rise to disputes.

Q.—Do they prepare estimates every year?

A.—For every year and for every crop, there used to be this estimate. Even now, those very same methods are in force in some villages.

Q.—Is not the Estates Land Act in force in the village?

A.—Things are taking place contrary to the Estates Land Act. Generally, the ryots made no estimates. There are no pattas and muchilkas. About one-half of the lands in the estate are unsettled. They used to prepare estimates and give them for one or two years.



Q.—Estimates would be prepared after the crops are ready for harvest and shares would be allotted. Is it not?

A.—After the crops are ripe, they (the estate officials) would come to the land in December, before crops are cut, and make estimates. When asked how much it is, they would not say.

Q.—Did anything happen before that?

A.—There is not the practice of putting in writing that in the coming year. Arrangements should be made in a particular way.

Q.—What is the usual practice?

A.—In the estate, the practice was 16 puttis per "garse." Since the very beginning of the estate, the old practice had been that for every "garse" the zamindar should take 16 puttis and the ryot 14 "puttis." They would take like that. Since 1908 it has never been in vogue anywhere.

Q.—In pursuance of that principle, the estate officers would come and say that out of the total produce they should get the 16 "puttis" share. That alone has been in force till now. The unsettled estate has over 50 per cent?

A.—Not able to put up with this trouble, we have now resorted to survey. Settlement was effected at the expense of ryots.

Q.—Was it done by the ryots?

A.—The ryots advanced all the money and had it done. Thereafter the zamindar contributed one-half.

Q.—What was the practice afterwards in the case of settled villages?

A.—There has been no estimate system since the settlement. The zamindar has got the amount fixed for each patta and granted a patta to each ryot, prescribing a fixed rate for a particular taram.

Q.—What is the third method?

A.—Neither the Government nor the ryot has made (the settlement). The zamindar himself effected the settlement. That is unjust.

Q.—What is unjust?

A.—He charged Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per acre more than that (the settlement rate).

Q.—Why was it charged and why did you agree (to it)?

A.—When the crop was not harvested, what else was to be done? This took place in 1933-34.

Q.—What is your trouble?

A.—The rates have increased abnormally.

Q.—Are there various systems in vogue now? Can you take each system and say what the old rate was and to how much it was now been increased?

A.—Full settlement has been effected generally the expenses together with instalments (rent) would come to about Rs. 20 per acre for the ryots. For that there is a rate of nearly Rs. 16. In years when there is yield, 10 puttis would be a hardship. It is a hardship for the ryot to pay so much.

Q.—Then it means that expenses are heavy. What does the zamindar do?

A.—Since the rents due to the zamindar have increased, these debts have arisen.

Q.—As a result of the 'Amani system'?

A.—As 16 puttis are given to the zamindar and as deductions are to be made from the 14 puttis representing the ryots' share for expenses, and after the zamindar's share was paid, the ryot would have nothing left to him for his food.

Q.—What about the third method?

A.—This is even more unjust than that and would lead to the sale of the "thali." All that has been said now relates to "thataku" (palmyra leaf?).

Q.—What about Ravivalasa in particular?

A.—The amount for ten years has come to Rs. 4,800. All the ryots have jointly engaged a pleader. Inam and jirotyati are jointly held. Ten persons were again proceeded against. It was then that they (tenants) came down to the compromise policy. They compromised for a sum of Rs. 5,750 in respect of a village for which Rs. 4,750 only was due. As a result of this, there has been an increase of about Rs. 650. All villages generally have one, two or three tanks but that village has only small tanks, thirty in number. The repairs are never done. Hence the famine of 1935. When the Commissioner came and made fuss, they said that they would give Rs. 20,000 and rendering account for Rs. 15,000, they executed repairs in a village on the road-side. They showed an account for Rs. 1,200 and had caused work worth only Rs. 300 to be done. That was what was shown to Mr. Wood. They showed even the roads laid by the Board (in the account). Sub-Collector Mr. Chettoor came.



Q.—How many tanks are there in your Tekkali Estate?

A.—About Rs. 6,700. But I cannot give a complete answer.

Q.—You spoke of repairs. From what date were repairs to them discontinued?

A.—To my knowledge there have been no repairs; that is to say for the last forty years there have been none to my knowledge.

Q.—Whose duty is this?

A.—This is the duty of the zamindars only. But they would not give us money.

Q.—When there is no certainty of tenure, no relation has been established between you and them (the zamindar); is it not?

A.—Ryots pay money to the Raja.

Q.—What is meant by private settlement?

A.—There are enhanced rents thereon.

Q.—How?

A.—They (the zamindars) got (deeds) executed by ryots. These are in respect of Badagamu and Sivarampuram.

Q.—Are the rents in the form of nuts (in kind)?

A.—When the people in a village under the estimate system pay 'ambaram' (share of grain), they (the zamindars) would not give receipts.

Q.—How long has this been in practice?

A.—They have never been given. They would file suits and carry on execution proceedings. When a dispute arises suits are filed on the ground that there are arrears. Even in cases where receipts were granted, decrees are being obtained, the reason being that the ryot does not make the payment in proper time.

Q.—Are you or are you not the president of the ryots' association?

A.—I have spoken all about the old Tekkali Estate. I have only given expression to the facts mentioned therein.

Q.—Are there any more?

A.—None. The tanks trouble is great.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What is the settlement rate?

A.—Rs. 14, Rs. 12 and Rs. 10.

Q.—Are there ryotwari lands? Are there Government lands?

A.—Nearby to us there are Government lands with an assessment ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4.

Q.—What do you get from wet lands after deducting expenses?

A.—If the yield is 20 "puttis," the expenses would come to Rs. 20 and nothing remains. If we do cultivation personally, the coolie alone would remain.

Q.—Would they not give a receipt if one asks for it?

A.—Generally 90 out of 100 persons are not given receipts. Who would dare pick up a quarrel with the Raja?

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Have you ever presented any petitions about tanks? Has the zamindar ever done anything?

A.—Even on the presentation of such petitions, no repairs have been done.

Q.—When they said that they would also give something, did you also offer anything?

A.—No answer.

Q.—What are the facilities now required?

A.—They have prohibited cattle-grazing. They would grant licences. If a vote is not given for some persons, they would not allow cattle to proceed to graze.

Q.—Is there forest in your estate?

A.—There is forest near Ravivalasa.

Q.—Can anything be had there?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you any right to collect woods in forests? If so, how do you bring it?

A.—For dried wood, they would issue licences on payment of Re. 1 or Rs. 2. They would not grant licences for ploughs. Raw wood is charged more according to quality.

Q.—Is there any distinction such as for purposes of business and purposes of cultivation?

A.—It existed in the beginning. There was no licence in the past. About twenty years ago they gave permission with a licence. There used to be the right to get firewood in accordance with the patta.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there any papers in support of that?

A.—There are no papers.



Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Have you any evidence with you to show that licences were taken?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In your Tekkali, are there any hills? Is there any charge for bringing stones from those hills?

A.—Yes. For a cart of big stones, 2 annas; for small stones, 4 annas.

Q.—Was it like this in the past?

A.—This practice existed in villages lying up.

Q.—Who has the right to hills and forests?

A.—All of them should exist for the use of ryots only.

Q.—You have spoken of the past? What about the present?

A.—No answer.

Q.—Are there “Savaras?”

A.—There are.

Q.—Do they live close to you? Can you say anything about their grievances?

A.—They used to have the right of cutting ‘podus’ formerly. They are now prevented from doing it.

Q.—When leases are granted, do they include or exclude hills?

A.—They are included as far as Ravivalasa is concerned. They would still write saying “for the current year.”

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How much lands have you?

A.—I have 30 acres; 10 to 16 acres being wet and 14 acres dry. Tekkali taluk has no channels. It is under thirty tanks.

Q.—Do you do cultivation personally?

A.—Personally. I have not given for lease.

Q.—What is the rent for dry and jirayati? How much per acre?

A.—In our village they have charged a rent of Rs. 100 for lands 300 acres in extent. There is some land of 30 acres near the sea. Three hundred acres is subject to submersion; but there would be submersion there once in three years. For that they would grant Rs. 3-8-0. Even as regards that there is much trouble. If salt water flows (on the land) the latter would be spoiled. The remaining lands are charged at Rs. 14 and Rs. 16.

Q.—Are the lands purchased by any persons? How?

A.—They are purchased at a rate of Rs. 14 to Rs. 16. There is a rate of Re. 1 and Re. 1-4-0 per acre. (There is also a rate of Rs. 100, Rs. 125 and Rs. 150.)

Q.—If so, why should the rent be high?

A.—If cultivation is done personally, there would be gain. If labour is engaged, there is nothing. I do cultivation personally. Now I am indebted to the extent of Rs. 3,000.

Q.—How long was it in your possession? Virtually for forty to sixty years; is it not? For rent payment have you not sold any lands?

A.—Since we have inam lands, I have not sold this land. I have 10 to 15 acres of service inam paying therefor Rs. 21 and Rs. 31. For personal inam the charge is Re. 1 per acre.

Q.—You have spoken of trouble in the case of forests. Are you aware of the Government system?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—What is the nature of this forest system?

A.—We would be satisfied if everything is on the Government model.

Q.—Have you got with you the settlement report? Would you file it?

A.—(The witness filed documents.)

Q.—Prior to the settlement, there used to be paddy rent; do you like it now also?

A.—If paddy is taken, it would be an advantage. If it be 16 and 14 ‘puttis,’ it is no advantage. It is somewhat better than the settlement.

Q.—You said that the zamindar made a settlement. Was an application made to the Collector in that connexion?

A.—No. Unable to cope with the zamindars, we have not done anything in our villages. Presentation of petitions would entail the trouble of joint pattas. That is a very big trouble.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is that trouble?

A.—Suits will be filed.

Q.—Would there be no trouble if each ryot is given a patta in respect of his lands?

A.—Pattas should be separated.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—If you deposit rents in the Collector's office, would it be advantageous to you?

A.—It is acceptable to us. We would pay through the Government itself.

Q.—Is there sub-letting of land for cultivation among ryots? Would the ryot pay in grain? Who would pay the rent?

A.—This prevails in some places. Those who have not the ability and those who have many lands would resort to this. Half the produce is given (by the sub-tenant). The rent is given by the person owning the land; but that is not profitable. If a person cultivates the lands himself, then alone would it be profitable.

Q.—Have you ever presented petitions urging subdivision of joint pattas?

A.—We have.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What is the sale price of Government lands?

A.—The price of Government lands adjoining ours would be about Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 per acre of wet land.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is their income?

A.—Government would supply water to them. The expense is one and the same for one and all.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there irrigation sources?

A.—There are tanks but they are in a ruined condition. Repairs are done by ryots themselves. No repairs have been done by the zamindar.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you not done repairs?

A.—They wanted us to make deposits. We therefore did not do repairs.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How could both the estates have tanks?

A.—Because it was a big estate.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you requested that repairs may be done to Padmanabha Sagaram?

A.—We have. The Court of Wards declined to do the same.

Q.—Is there any custom to the effect that repairs should be done by the ryot if the cost thereof should be less than Rs. 20 and by the zamindar if it should be more than that amount?

A.—In the case of diversions of water flow and breaches of bunds, there has been the practice of the whole village doing repairs.

Q.—Who should do repairs?

A.—We shall attend to breaches of bunds, while repairs should be done by the zamindar.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the rent now in Badagan?

A.—Now the rent is Rs. 15. Formerly, it used to be under the estimate system. There are settlement tanks. There are settlement tanks personally constructed by the Raja. No repairs are done to them.

Q.—How much lands is there under the ayacut of that Badagan?

A.—I cannot give a complete answer.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—If the tanks are maintained in a proper condition, would you be able to pay the rent?

A.—Even though the tanks are in a proper condition, we cannot bear the present rents.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much do you pay for your inams?

A.—The quit-rent for service inams is Rs. 3 and for personal inams Re. 1.

Witness No. 4.

Vizagapatam.

7th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Polaki Ramakrishnamma, son of Poiaki Appayya, aged 60 years, Temburu village, Pata Tekkali estate.

Q.—Do you hold any office?

A.—No, I am a ryot.

Q.—Can you say anything about your estate? If not, is it about yourself alone? Are you connected with the association in any way? Are there ryots' associations in your village?

A.—I am a Congress member and a member of the ryots' association.

Q.—What are the arrears in your estate?

A.—There is an arrear of Rs. 8,000 for our village.



Q.—How much is paid to the zamindar per year?

A.—About Rs. 7,000 according to settlement.

Q.—If so, in respect of what period is this arrear due? That means 10 years' dues have not been paid?

A.—We have been paying but they would not give receipts. If there was an old arrear, the money would be credited to it. (The witness showed a receipt given to Polaki Paddappa.) Though it was said that there was no arrear, proceedings were taken in respect of the lands. That ryot has not come here. I have come on his behalf. The receipt was given on 22nd January 1935. The agent on behalf of the zamindar, it means, showed nil arrears. This is a petition for execution of a decree.

Q.—You said a suit has been filed; what is that?

A.—This occurred 12 years ago. After the arrear was collected, proceedings were again launched. The dispute was in the year 1920 and an execution petition was subsequently filed in 1935.

Q.—What was the result of that petition?

A.—They said that we should make representations, in case we should have objections to the existing rate.

Q.—On what date did they ask you to be present? Was it in October?

A.—When some of the receipts were produced, the suit was dismissed by the Collector's court on the ground that they were not filed in proper time and were also time-barred. There are some other suits like this.

[Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, he said that the total arrear was that amount, the last payment was made 3 years ago and the receipts were therefore time-barred.]

(The witness presented another receipt.) Crediting it to faslis 1334 and 1335, they gave a receipt for an old arrear. Though they had taken Rs. 65 paid by Nowpada Pothayya, etc., for survey, they did not make the survey. (Produced two receipts, one for Rs. 65, dated 6th October 1934, and another for Rs. 40, dated 7th January 1936.)

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Was it for the reason that they were time-barred?

A.—They had one document executed for Rs. 4,000.

Q.—Why did you execute it?

A.—As they threatened to take distraint proceedings, I was afraid and executed it. They forced me to execute it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How long ago was this executed?

A.—It was executed out of fear.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Why were you in arrears?

A.—We placed our village under survey and settlement operations. Unable to meet cultivation expenses and family expenses, I had to be in arrears of rent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much do you owe now?

A.—They had a document executed by me for Rs. 4,000 and odd. I executed more than two years ago a mortgage deed. This was because I was not able to pay the decree amount and bear cultivation expenses for faslis including the fasli in respect of which there was time-bar.

Q.—How much lands have you? Do you do cultivation personally?

A.—About 30 to 50 acres of wet land and 30 acres of dry land. For 5 or 6 acres of wet land, there is a rate of Rs. 14, Rs. 13, Rs. 12-8-0 and even Rs. 10. I do cultivation personally engaging coolies. I have not sublet any lands.

Q.—How much do the sub-tenants give?

A.—They prepare estimates and give a portion of the produce. For ten bags he would deduct two bags, and out of the remaining eight he would give four. We would incur heavier expenditure per acre. For seeds, transplantation and weeding the expenses would come nearly to Rs. 20. For private mamuls two bags are required.

Q.—Out of the amount of Rs. 80,000, what is the decree amount and what is the outstanding arrear?

A.—They said that the decree amount came to 60 to 70 thousand rupees and that this together with all the balance aggregated to Rs. 80,000, 10 or 12 years ago they fixed the prices (of land) at Rs. 160—Rs. 175.

Q.—Was this land acquired by you or by your ancestors?

A.—I did not acquire it. Then there was not the injustice of the present times.



Q.—How much of the produce did they use to give then?

A.—They used to give to the Rajas in the past after deducting cultivation expenses. But I do not know it.

Q.—You said that you executed a deed for Rs. 4,000. Did you not report it to the Collector and the Congress Committee?

A.—We were afraid. Could we live after making the report?

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—When does the land yield crops?

A.—The land never yields a crop. No repairs are done to tanks. We have been subjected to a number of hardships and malpractices.

Q.—Out of 10 years, how many are marked by the yield of crops and how many by failure of crops?

A.—Three years.

Mr. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What is the rate for the adjoining Government lands?

A.—The rates range from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 4. Those lands command good sources of irrigation.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Was any person legally proceeded against and sent to jail for arrears?

A.—The practice is to issue warrants, obtain the attendance (of the defaulting ryots) in the estate buildings and cause documents to be executed by them. In Basavada Polaki Karrenna was summoned like that and sent to jail.

Witness No. 5.

Vizagapatam.

7th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Egalla Apparao, son of Egalla Ramakrishna, aged 34 years, Penturu village, Pata Tekkali estate.

Q.—Are you a ryot? How much land have you?

A.—I am a ryot. Fifteen acres.

Q.—How is rent paid?

A.—There is Settlement rent and there is Amani also. Settlement has been done in some villages. There are on the whole 100, 120 villages; one-third thereof has been settled. Two (two-thirds) have not been settled—[or have been amani (అమని).]

Q.—How many years ago?

A.—About seven years ago.

Q.—You speak of amani. How then is rent assessed?

A.—Lands are leased out. Estimates are made by the zamindar's own men. Whenever they require money, they demand it.

Q.—Does the land now owned by you lie in settled villages?

A.—Yes. The assessment per acre in our village is Rs. 19. The Zamindar of Vizianagram Estate also owns some villages. When settlement was made, pattas in some cases were granted. Rent was fixed at rates unknown in the taluk. Disputes arose between them and the Zamindar of Vizianagram. Repairs are not effected. Rent has been raised on the ground that there are tanks. Ryots asked for reduction. Every year a (new) manager goes there. He does things as he likes. But he does nothing. We took the matter to the notice of the Collector. He asked us to sue. Subsequently it was pleaded that the estate had no funds. Then the management was in the hands of the Court of Wards. Rent which amounted in those days to Rs. 4,000 now stands at Rs. 10,000. It was increased twenty years ago. When we asked for revision (of rents), it was refused. Ryots have been driven to indebtedness. They don't have even the food to maintain their families with. The hill-sources (of cultivation) at Sitanagaram have disappeared. Estimates are not made in good time in amani villages. Over-estimates are made. Owing to survey operations and attachments, some have been relinquishing lands and going out (of the estate).

Q.—Have not the ryots submitted petitions?

A.—Petitions are thrown into the waste-paper basket. That is all. We petitioned for ten years that Padmanabha Sagaram in Kizolu village should be repaired and that the heavy rents should be reduced. Nothing has come out of them. Only the existing heavy rents continue to be collected. When famine prevailed in the locality, the Collector visited it. This sagaram is under the joint enjoyment of the two estates. There is a big (?) there. It has no banks. The Engineer said that repairs would cost Rs. 15,000. When we served a notice on the zamindar, he replied that it was joint property and that, therefore, he was unable to do anything.



Q.—What will repairs cost now?

A.—Rs. 50,000. There are 45 villages in the ayacut and the total rent is Rs. 15,000. Peda Thamra has no tanks, but it bears a cash rent of Rs. 14. This has been enhanced and a rent in kind consisting of some garces of paddy has been fixed. Private settlement also prevails. The officials of the estate conducted settlement operations and proposed to grant pattas by force, but nobody accepted the pattas. As regards dry villages, rent has been assessed at Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per acre. Rent has fallen into arrears by two to three thousands.

Q.—Are there forests in your estate?

A.—Yes. We are not allowed to send our cattle to graze there, nor produce wood for agricultural implements therefrom. When the Estate was under the management of the Court of Wards, we used to be allowed these facilities. Subsequently we have not been allowed to enjoy them. Fees have been levied. Vizianagram Estate authorities do not allow cattle to get in and graze nor permit ryots to take things for agricultural purposes. Formerly, the method of granting licences did not exist. When I was young, they allowed (the facilities free). This is not in vogue now.

Q.—You have been saying something about Vizianagram. What is it?

A.—They (Vizianagram Estate) have taken a part of Nandigama Estate. Both are at logger heads. On that score the ryots are being harassed. As for Savaras, it goes very hard with them. There are more 'Podus' and there is the vetti system.

Q.—What is the state of things in Vizianagram and what is the state of things in Nandigama?

A.—About thirty years ago, Vizianagram Estate authorities also conducted settlement operations. Rent there used to be high but some facilities were provided to them (ryots). During the year when famine prevailed, eight annas in the rupee was spent on repairs (famine relief work).

Q.—Does your estate contain any inams?

A.—Double crop is raised in quit-rent inams. The quit-rent has been enhanced. It is under Jalandhra amin. The Zamindar of Nandigama lives at Tekkali. The Zamindar of Tekkali is also there. Crops are bad this year also. Estimates (computation) (by estate officials) are high. We have submitted petitions but they are carrying out attachments. They have attached "Peshamulu." They are demanding Rs. 5,000 for the total kist. When we offered to pay for our village, they did not agree. The Magistrate also did not agree.

Q.—How many days ago?

A.—Fifteen days ago. It will be a serious hardship, if the instalment periods are not extended.

Q.—How much did you offer to pay?

A.—We said that the rent for Nandigama was only Rs. 2,000, that the yield this year was only 4 annas and that we would pay Rs. 2,000 due on Nandigama. But they said that Nandigama people alone should pay the entire amount.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—You say that instalments should be extended. When should they begin?

A.—They should begin from February and extend over four months and the estate authorities should pay the costs of decrees.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—About zamindars—Famine conditions prevail every year in the Takkali taluk. Therefore, some special arrangements should be made. If water is supplied to our taluk from Maliaputtu, the famine will be less intense.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What in your opinion is an equitable rent?

A.—It (the land) must be fit for purposes of cultivation. Though we have thirty or fifty acres, we are not able to maintain our families. It would be well, if provision is made that the zamindars should take a sixth of the net income.

Q.—Will Government rates be agreeable to you?

A.—Yes. The rates are Rs. 2, Rs. 3, Rs. 4 per acre.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What does it come to in your case?

A.—It comes to Rs. 18, 19 per acre. The ryot should have the opportunity for cultivation. Only 40 per cent of the people are cultivators at present, while they used to be 75 per cent in the past, the reason being that rents are heavy and indebtedness has grown considerably.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Where have lands gone?

A.—They have gone into the hands of the zamindars and sahu-kars. If the manager is favourably disposed, he would reduce (the rent). Formerly, Nishtala Somayajulu Garu



was the manager and now Bhagavanulu Garu is the manager. Somayajulu Garu used to grant remission and he remained for two years (as the manager). Bhagavan Pantulu Garu has been there (as the manager) up to now.

Q.—Have you at any time petitioned the Collector?

A.—We have, but to no purpose. Courts are not within our reach.

Q.—Have you petitioned the Collector about the sagaram?

A.—The Collector has replied that he cannot do anything as it is under a "joint estate." The reply is with us and we shall file it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are there pattas? Are receipts granted?

A.—There are no pattas. The matter of granting receipts does not conform to a definite principle. The Revenue Inspector grants receipts in a variety of ways. There are debts amounting to Rs. 2,000. The Magistrate has demanded payment of the whole amount. Old debts amount to Rs. 2,000. The total amount is Rs. 9,000. Decrees amount to Rs. 2,000. Arrears amount to Rs. 2,000. When our estate was for some time under the management of the Court of Wards, the ryots were sent for and collections were made by force. The ryots being afraid, did not accept pattas.

Q.—Did the Court of Wards do injustice?

A.—In their regime too, things were as they are now.

The proceedings closed at 6 p.m. on 7th January 1938.

Witness No. 6.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Manipathruni Suryanarayana Patnaik, son of Sundara Narayana Patnaik, aged 45 years, ryot, Ryot Sangha President, residing at Padmapuram village, Budarsinghi estate, Sompeta taluk.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What village do you belong to?

A.—Padmapuram, Budasingh Estate.

Q.—Where is it situated?

A.—It is ten miles from Sompeta.

Q.—Are you a ryot?

A.—Yes, I am a ryot. I am the President of the Ryot Association.

Q.—Have you given anything in writing?

A.—I have previously sent written matter in Telugu.

Q.—Are you going to dwell only on the points contained therein?

A.—I shall say what I have stated therein and also new facts.

Q.—What are those new facts?

A.—The administrative methods of zamindars and the wretched lot of the ryot.

Q.—Are not all these covered by the answers to the questionnaire?

A.—Injustice is done to the Savaras. I shall relate that also.

Q.—Are not all these covered by the answers to the questionnaire?

A.—Some new facts have come to my knowledge since I submitted the written answers to the questionnaire.

Q.—Please say what you have got to say?

A.—The schedule of rates at which collections are made from the Savaras and the hill tribes is in Oriya.

Q.—Are none of them present?

A.—As they are unable to give evidence, they have not come.

Q.—Is your Association working on their behalf also?

A.—Yes.

Q.—If you know facts, tell them.

A.—A levy is made in the name of 'Konda (Hill) Padri'—Tamarind, pumpkins, cost of he-goat, honey, ginger and ghee are being collected. Permits are granted and taxes are being collected in respect of little millet and redgram. There are instances of additional fees levied on little millet while it is being brought on the way-side.

Q.—Do you mean to say that nothing should be collected from Savaras?

A.—Something more is collected besides these. They prepare bamboo mats, baskets, etc., from bamboo splittings and leaves. It is said that the zamindar alone should purchase them and not others. The zamindars purchase these for one anna and sell them for five annas.



Q.—Where does the zamindar sell?

A.—He sells them to private merchants.

Q.—How long has this been going on?

A.—For the past 20 years; ever since I was in a position to know things. The estate people have been working, enhancing the zamindar's share (of the produce).

Q.—On what system is the collection of rent made in your estate? Is it on the Amani system?

A.—According to the method of estimation and the Amani method. The rates have been enhanced by six or seven times. There are five villages: of these, one village used to pay Rs. 925; another Rs. 100; the third Rs. 130; the fourth Rs. 150; and the fifth Rs. 180. They (the zamindar) filed suits in the Collector's Court, sold away their lands, deprived the people of three villages of land for carrying on cultivation and leased out the same to those they liked. About 100 families have been suffering for want of food.

Q.—You say that the Amani system prevailed to a large extent and that in the suits filed subsequently a compromise was effected. Are estimates made in respect of lands under the Amani system, before harvest?

A.—Yes. Only estimates are made. For fifteen days before the harvest, ryots are unnecessarily summoned to the headquarters of the estate, and at night it is hard to guard against wild beasts and keep watch over crops. For 15 days after estimates are made, they are summoned to the headquarters of the estate and thus troubled. The trouble caused by the monkeys during these 15 days when they have to be going to and fro, is very much. During night there is the trouble of wild beasts. Unable to bear these troubles, the ryots agree to any terms and come away. There are no cattle for ploughing purposes and no cloth to wear.

Q.—Is that what is happening under the Amani system?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You said that lands were sold in auction. Was it under the Amani system?

A.—There used to be cash-rents in the past in respect of five villages. The cash-rents in respect of those five villages existed ever since the estate came into existence. I am 45 years old. Ever since I came of age and was able to know things there had been cash-rents for these villages. These were changed into rents in kind in 1920. Prices of grains used to be high then. They made the change as rents in kind were considered profitable.

Q.—Have they been receiving rents in kind ever since?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long have they been doing this?

A.—They have purchased those villages.

Q.—What are those villages?

A.—Kurunagoli, Pedaposta and Chinaposta.

Q.—Who purchased them?

A.—The zamindar purchased the lands in these three villages.

Q.—What about the remaining villages?

A.—They (the people of the remaining villages) went to Rangoon, earned money and retained their lands.

Q.—You say they have retained their lands. What is their condition?

A.—They (the zamindar) have collected an enhanced tax of As. 1-9 in the rupee.

Q.—You say that cash-rents prevailing between 20 years and now have been changed into rents in kind. Of what benefit was this?

A.—They have charged 6 garces for those paying 3 garces and 10 for those paying 6 garces.

Q.—What was the profit?

A.—They have charged an excess of As. 2 in the rupee.

Q.—You are giving oral evidence for all this. Have you got any documentary evidence to show that they were first under the Amani system, then brought under cash-rents and again changed into the Amani system?

A.—Formerly the revenue was Rs. 7,000. Now the revenue has gone up to Rs. 20,000. (Files a document and files receipts for levies from the hill tribes.)

Q.—On the whole, how many villages are there now in your estate?

A.—Twenty-five villages.

Q.—How many are at present under Amani?

A.—All are under Amani.



Q.—Has not any one filed suits?

A.—Only three ryots have filed suits. The litigation lasted from 1931 to 1937 and in the end, the ryots compromised with them (the zamindar) on the latter's own terms.

Q.—They have filed suits. But have they got the rents settled?

A.—After ten years, they came to a compromise in respect of all matters.

Q.—You say that they came to a compromise out of fear for the zamindar. They did so ten years after the suits were filed in the court. You say that they came to a compromise out of fear for the zamindar?

A.—It is true. We fought for ten years.

Q.—What are your grievances?

A.—There are no proper water facilities. There are only small tanks. We have no proper water facilities. When we submitted a petition to the Collector, they (the estate authorities) reported that they had effected the repairs. Officers do not come there for lack of cars, buses and a road. The zamindar reported that he had effected repairs. There is not a single 'Gedda' (stream or water-course) which is constructed of brick and mortar.

Q.—How many "Geddas" are there in your estate?

A.—There are hill streams. There is one gedda.

Q.—Are repairs done at any time?

A.—Since I came of age to be able to know things, repairs have never been done. They used to do some small repairs now and then. No repairs have been done at all for the last 15 years.

Q.—How many "Geddas" are there? Is there only one?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For 25-26 villages?

A.—Some villages depend entirely upon rains. There are no geddas whatever. There is scope for cultivation of about 10 or 15 villages with the aid of these field channels. If repairs are done to them, water would be supplied to all the villages.

Q.—You have spoken about repairs. What else is there? They filed suits in (19)21.

A.—The zamindar filed suits.

Q.—Was it contended in this case that the estimates were not correct?

A.—Yes, please.

[Plaintiff contends that he is entitled to half the crop raised; the chairman read from documents filed. Judgment copy filed.]

Q.—Have those who filed the three suits in this estate and desired settlement got only the Amani system?

A.—Those who filed suits have lost their lands.

Q.—Do not the defendants in those suits possess lands now?

A.—They have taken the very same lands on lease and have been cultivating them.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—In whose possession are those lands now?

A.—They are in the possession of the estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How many lands which were formerly in the possession of ryots are in the possession of the estate now?

A.—As the people of two villages had paid the arrears and the rent, they have the lands. The people of the other three villages have no lands.

Q.—What rent do you take objection to?

A.—We object to the proprietor's share as high. We object to the cash-rent as being high.

Q.—Why?

A.—One acre yields a quarter (garce?) of paddy. They collect the rent from those paying cash-rents whether or not there is any yield from the land. So, it is high.

Q.—Suppose the cash-rent of a land, which is Rs. 5 per year, is enhanced, how long does it (the enhanced rent) continue afterwards in respect of the same land?

A.—It will continue for ten years.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What was paid by the villages formerly?

A.—The villages which were previously paying Rs. 100 are now paying Rs. 300, Rs. 400.

Q.—What was the collection in the five villages as a whole?

A.—One paid Rs. 150, another Rs. 180 and the third Rs. 190.



Q.—Rupees 1,600 was collected then. How much is collected now?

A.—A village paying Rs. 100 has been given for Rs. 400, one paying Rs. 135 for Rs. 400 and the one paying Rs. 180 for Rs. 500.

Q.—In what year was it Rs. 180 and in what year was it increased to Rs. 500?

A.—In 1918 it used to be Rs. 180. Subsequently, it went up.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did these rates exist in 1918?

A.—Yes.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What was it last year and what is the reason for enhancement?

A.—The helplessness of the ryot.

Q.—Was the price of grain high in 1918 or now?

A.—It was high in 1918 only.

Q.—What do you say was the rent of the villages in 1918? Have you got any sanad with you?

A.—The books are filed in the court. We shall produce them if so required.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What papers have you got with you now?

A.—I have got with me the printed papers filed in the High Court.

Q.—Has it been decided in the High Court?

A.—Yes. The zamindar has won the case in the High Court.

Q.—You contended that you need not have to pay so much as has been demanded by the zamindar?

A.—It was decided that we could not but pay.

Q.—Did the High Court decide that you should pay what was demanded by the zamindar? You have said that what was Rs. 100 was raised to Rs. 400 and Rs. 180 to Rs. 500. Was there any reference in it (the High Court's judgment) to this matter?

A.—All that took place subsequently. All these rates have been enhanced subsequent to the decision by the High Court.

Q.—Have you got the High Court record at home?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Please get it and give it afterwards?

A.—Yes, please.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—When did you say this took place?

A.—In 1927.

Q.—You said that the zamindar enhanced the rates only subsequently?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you say that it was in 1919 that the enhancement was made. It means that it is wrong on your part to say that enhancement was made subsequent to the judgment?

A.—Suits were filed against the ryots in 1919.

Q.—Was the enhancement made in 1919? Did you therefore say that the enhancement was made?

A.—The suits were filed in 1919. They were pending disposal till 1927.

Q.—What do you mean by saying that the enhancement of rents was made in 1919?

A.—As an increase in rent was demanded in 1919. I meant that the enhancement was from that time.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Was it in the suits filed in 1919 that the demand for enhancement from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 was made?

A.—Test suits at the rate of two per village were filed.

Q.—You said that where it was Rs. 100 it became Rs. 400?

A.—Lists showing the amounts to be paid by us according to the estimates were prepared. Our appeal was dismissed. The zamindar had won.

Q.—You said that the enhancement of Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 was made subsequent to the High Court decree. Did you file a suit against it?

A.—Suits were filed collectively for five villages.

Q.—You said that no suit was filed in respect of the enhancement from Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,300?

A.—No suit was filed in respect of that.



Q.—That means suits were not filed for all the five villages?

A.—No.

Q.—How many test suits in all were filed?

A.—At the rate of two. Eight suits were filed.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Did you file suits for payment according to the sharing system?

A.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Have you got a copy of the plaint?

[Here the witness produced papers.]

A.—Here are copies of the plaint, suit notices and appraisement petition.

Q.—What is the inference to be drawn from this and the suit?

A.—They filed a suit claiming the zamindar's share.

Q.—Did the ryots put up a defence?

A.—The matter is pending before the High Court and we have applied for "stay" orders.

Q.—What have you now to do with what was decided by the High Court?

A.—We have nothing to do.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What is the zamindar's share? What is the ryots' share? Is it agreeable to you?

A.—A cart-load's yield is estimated at one and a half cart-loads and for finally fixing the estimate, we are made to go to and fro for fifteen days. Ours is a forest area and monkeys will eat the crops.

Q.—Would it pay the ryot or not to give a half-share? What share could he afford to give? What share would it be convenient for you to give?

A.—One acre requires 12 kunchams of seed-grain for sowing.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—He asked you to state what share it would be convenient for you to pay out of the produce raised?

A.—We could afford to pay a sixth of the yield per acre.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What is the assessment paid for Government lands?

A.—We have no Government lands lying nearby.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What is the yield in putties per acre? Is a putti equal to 200 kunchams?

A.—The yield will be seven putties and ten kunchams. The expense will be Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. There will be a balance of three rupees. They say that they will pay eight annas out of it to the zamindar.

Q.—Are you not referring to dry lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you say about dry lands?

A.—It would be of advantage to us to pay eight, six and twelve annas rent. At present, the rates vary from 14 annas to Rs. 3-8-0.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Is it advantageous to permanently fix the rate you pay or do you want that it should be subject to alteration?

A.—It will be good to have the rent permanently fixed.

Q.—Do you want that the rent should be fixed permanently?

A.—When crops fail remission should be granted.

Q.—When is remission to be granted?

A.—We want remission when there is total failure of crops.

Q.—Has your village been surveyed?

A.—You mean resurveyed. Resurveyed.

Q.—Will you bear at least a portion of the cost of the survey?

A.—The zamindars, who are rich should bear the cost. We are poor. We cannot bear it.

Q.—Are you put to trouble in the matter of the zamindar collecting rent or share from you?

A.—There are troubles. They collect rent without mentioning the fasli. They grant receipts without noting the fasli.

[Here the witness files receipts.]

They act in a high-handed manner when payment is not made. There is no proof for this. They throw out the eating-plate and earthen vessels into the street and do not allow people to come out of the house until payment is made.



The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Should they (the zamindars) or should they not have means whereby to collect their dues in the event of failure to pay them?

A.—Fair rents will be paid.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do you say that there should be no high-handedness? Do you say that suits should not be filed?

A.—How can they (ryots) say that suits should not be filed?

Q.—If the zamindars depend upon muchilika alone, they have got the power to distrain. Do you say it is just or unjust? Do you say that it is unjust to distrain in the absence of a decree?

A.—It is unjust for them to distrain.

Q.—Do you consider that the Mustajare system should not exist?

A.—There should be direct dealings between the zamindar and the ryot. Loss results from there being middlemen.

Q.—Are lands being sold after decrees are obtained? Are they sold for arrears or do you say that only that much of land that would suffice for the rent of Rs. 400 should be sold?

[Here the Chairman remarked : “ Should he tell us that? ”]

A.—Four acres of land were sold by the Estate for Rs. 142.

Q.—Suppose there are arrears in respect of a land and there is no decree. But the land is sold?

[The Chairman disallowed this as hypothetical question.]

Q.—In how many instalments do you want the rent to be collected?

A.—We want it to be collected in four monthly instalments after February.

Q.—You said that the zamindar has made default in respect of water facilities?

A.—It has been hitherto the duty of the zamindar.

Q.—Is it or is it not your duty to do a portion?

A.—We have to do kudimaramath. The rest will have to be done by them (the zamindars).

Q.—In your Estate, up to what amount should he do and up to what amount should you do?

A.—Usually we have been doing kudimaramath ourselves. One ryot has 3 acres of land and Rs. 84 is being collected.

Q.—Perhaps those lands are fertile. For how long have they been collecting like that?

A.—We have been paying from fasli 1333.

Q.—How much was it previous to that?

A.—It used to be Rs. 10 previous to that.

Q.—Have you got the pattas and the receipts?

A.—The ryot's house was burnt.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What crops are raised on the lands?

A.—Paddy.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Have you got communal lands or forests? Who has got rights over them? Is it the zamindar or the ryot?

A.—The ryots should have rights over them.

Q.—Do you say that the ryots have no right of passage over the hills?

A.—The ryots have got the right to obtain stones and timber for house construction.

Q.—Did they have these rights previously?

A.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Till how long ago did they have the rights?

A.—All persons used to obtain them without paying money. They are now taking money from some. Money is not taken from the people of some villages. It is not taken from some villages.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Are there differences in one and the same village?

A.—No.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Are any persons getting their lands cultivated by smaller ryots?

A.—There are no such big ryots in our estate at all.



Q.—What was the amount when cash-rents prevailed?

A.—It was seven thousands then.

Q.—Do you think that jamabandi as in the Government villages is necessary for you?

A.—It is not necessary at present.

Q.—Have pattas and muchilkas been exchanged?

A.—They are getting muchilkas executed but they do not give us papers.

Q.—How far are Government lands from your village and what assessment is being collected from them, per acre?

A.—They are at a distance of 10 miles from our village. We have rates at 8 annas, 12 annas and Re. 1. The difference is very much in our estate. The rent has increased by ten times. There is difference as ours is a forest area.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you any land?

A.—I have dry and wet land to the extent of 50 acres.

Q.—Which is your village?

A.—Padmapuram.

Q.—What rent do you pay?

A.—I am paying Rs. 260.

Q.—How much were you paying previously?

A.—Previously we were paying a share of the produce.

Q.—Did you at any time serve in the Buda Singh estate?

A.—I served in the Buda Singh estate itself for two months in 1919. I cannot specify the place. It is a small estate.

Q.—You said that you had filed the papers in the High Court. Have you got the judgment copy? Will you file them also?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You said that the zamindar had purchased the land in five villages?

A.—Only in three villages.

Q.—What has been done with that land?

A.—They were purchased for arrears of rent and given to the ryot himself.

Q.—You mean that they have been given to ryots?

A.—They have given them temporarily.

Q.—Does not the Estates Land Act apply to you?

A.—The ryot is weak and hence, he has no rights.

Q.—How many tanks are there in your village?

A.—There are 10–12 bandas (small tanks). There are no tanks.

Q.—How much will have to be spent for their improvement?

A.—Repairs to the extent of two or three thousand should be made and masonry work done to the existing streams at a cost of four or five thousands.

[Produces Jalanthra estate plan and shows that five estates can be benefited by repairing a big tank.]

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What was the cause of dispute between you and them (the zamindars)?

A.—We did not give false evidence when we were asked to do so.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Age?

A.—45.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Will you be put to loss if you cannot get wood for agricultural implements?

A.—It will certainly be a loss.

Q.—Would you like to have cash-rents if there is the system of granting remission?

A.—The remission system should prevail.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do they (the zamindars) charge any fee for padu cultivation on the hills? If the produce is brought down do they charge any fee for getting it? What crops are raised?

A.—Yes. Paddy, cholam, etc., crops are raised.

Q.—Is free labour exacted?

A.—Free labour is exacted. Savaras alone work in the zamindar's own lands. If they refuse to work, they get nothing short of beating. No question of money!



8th January 1938.

Witness No. 7.

Vizagapatam.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dandalam Lakshminarayana, son of Garudachalam, aged 43 years, agriculture, Baruvapeta, Jirayati village, residing at Baruva, Baruvapeta estate, Sompeta taluk.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How long ago did this come?

A.—About 100 years ago. Now and then, Government used to have control over it and introduced Mustazari. They created leaseholders temporarily. The Government used to wait for sometime, if the amount was not paid. About 1840, they leased it out to 'Jarada' family.

Q.—Are you employed anywhere?

A.—I am an agriculturist. To show that this was under the Government, it is called 'Kambogatta' (files documents). It contains all communal and village lands.

Q.—What are you filing these for?

A.—To show that these are Government jirayati villages, inams have been granted to those performing service to the Government. Dandasaki lands have been granted to barbers, dhobies, etc.

Q.—The person who took this after executing a lease-deed gave it (the lands) to others; was this not the case?

A.—This is a public copy. We took it previously from the Collector's office.

Q.—This is its origin. What is its subsequent history?

A.—This is about the inams granted by Government in return for services to villages.

Q.—Who is Mumjumdar?

A.—Leaseholder. The person who has taken a lease for 4-3 years.

Q.—Who said that the term "Munjunda" means a leaseholder?

A.—That is the word in common usage, sir.

Q.—You have come on behalf of Baruva estate, is it not? When did Baruva estate come into the hands of the zamindars?

A.—The Government granted it to 'Jarada' family about 1848, on 99 years' lease.

Q.—How long ago was the Baruva estate given on lease?

A.—Ninety-five, ninety-six years back.

Q.—To whom was the 99 years' lease given and what is the work that is being done?

A.—They have been enjoying it as proprietors.

Q.—You say that the present Baruva estate is held on 99 years' lease?

A.—We say that after 99 years' the Government should take it over. We have submitted (a petition) on behalf of the Association, the Baruva Ryots' Association urging that it should be resumed as a Government jirayati village.

Q.—What have you got to say?

A.—Whether or not there is any yield, the zamindar takes 2 shares, leaving one share to the ryot. All the communal lands are being cultivated. There is no facility for cattle to graze. Formerly, stones were quarried free of cost in the hills. But now civil and criminal cases are being launched for quarrying stones. They have been creating trouble for the last 2 or 3 years.

Q.—What is meant by common lands?

A.—Communal lands.

Q.—Why are stones quarried in communal lands?

A.—There is a hill and lands (on the hill) are brought under cultivation.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—Why do you require stones?

A.—For our use for house-construction.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Has the whole hill been brought under cultivation?

A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—You have said that you have filed suits. What are the decisions?

A.—(They direct). That we should pay to the zamindar.

Q.—What is meant by tribhagi?

A.—Two shares to the zamindar and one-share to the ryot.

Q.—Who gives the muchilika? Is it the ryot or the zamindar?

[Here the witness files papers regarding tribhagi, sagabhagam (half-share) and lease.]

Q.—How long ago were muchialikas for half-share executed?

A.—Nearly 50 years ago.

Q.—When did it become tribhagam (3 shares)?

A.—About 40 years ago.



Q.—Did leases come subsequently? How long ago did they commence?

A.—Thirty years ago. Up to the present, leases continue.

Q.—What is the income of the estate?

A.—It is about Rs. 25,000. It depends on the source of water-supply, the Mahendranathanaya.

Q.—What extent was under cultivation when the half-share was taken? What is the extent now?

A.—The Baruva estate has not been surveyed.

Q.—What is your complaint against the existing rate of assessment in your estate?

A.—It ranges up to 30 as per "communication".

Q.—How many villages are there? In how many villages does the cash-rent system prevail?

A.—There will be 100 acres through commutation, 150 acres are held on lease and the rest held on the tribhagi (one-third share) system.

Q.—What is your complaint?

A.—The rent was commuted at a time when famine-prices of grain prevailed. So, it has increased enormously. It should be reduced. Formerly when there were good crops lands were taken on lease at one-third share. They demand the same whether or not there is any yield. There are no rich crops now as in the past. In the absence of crops, we feel it a great hardship to pay.

Q.—What rate would you wish to have for lands taken on lease?

A.—We would like that cash-rents are fixed for them.

Q.—How much do you offer to pay per acre?

A.—In view of the present prices, it should be Re. 1 and Rs. 1-8-0 per acre.

Q.—Have you got Government lands adjoining your village?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the rates there?

A.—It is 8 annas and 12 annas.

Q.—Do you think that it should be less than the rates for Government lands?

A.—In fixing the rates, the Government themselves have unjustly fixed (them). They, too, are high.

Q.—Do you want that lands held under amani should also be brought under cash-rents?

A.—The banks of the Mahendrathanaya have been washed away. The Collector has ordered that bunds should be raised. We requested that shutters may be supplied. The source of water-supply has gone. It is now 13-14 years since this happened.

Q.—Of what use is the communal land to you at present?

A.—Earth used to be obtained therefrom to increase the fertility of lands. It is suitable for the poor to obtain lotus stems, etc., therefrom for the purpose of sale. Cultivation has been increasing for the past 4 or 5 years. When they came to know that we had reported to the Government this fact, they brought all the available (communal) land under cultivation. We wrote to the Government in 1934.

Q.—Have you received an endorsement from Government?

A.—They said they would pay a personal visit. As soon as they (the estate authorities) became aware of the enquiry, they gave the lands to all. The rent for a land which was Rs. 18-14-0 has been doubled.

Q.—Whose land is it?

A.—Bodda Venkayya's.

Q.—In which year was it Rs. 18 and odd?

A.—Up to 1893, it was Rs. 18-13 and odd. In 1815 and 1816, one cart load seems to have changed into one bharanam. It would appear that the rent has been doubled.

Q.—You say that suits were filed against you when the system of leases existed. How did suits come to be filed?

A.—Lands used to be held from the beginning on the system of estimates. The rates system was introduced afterwards. They (the holders of lands) are not mentioned as pattalars. Before the system of lease came into existence, half share used to be given to the zamindar. Thereafter 'tribhagi' (one-third share) was introduced—one-third to the ryot. Then they introduced the lease system by which so many carts (cart-loads of produce), and bharanams had to be given, whether or not there was yield. Yearly muchilikas came into vogue. They were uncontested. Decree was passed according to the muchilikas. There were warrants and attachments in pursuance of the decrees.



Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Who had been enjoying the communal land before it was leased out?

A.—It had to be enjoyed by all commonly.

Q.—Had the cattle of all been grazing in the communal land?

A.—Yes.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—According to the beriz statement the income was Rs. 20,000. Has it become Rs. 40,000 now?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What income does the ryot get per acre? (This question was disallowed by the Chairman.)

Q.—Do troubles arise during collection? (This question was also disallowed.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Has your estate been surveyed?

A.—I have no land either in Baruva or in Peta. There is my father-in-law's property both in Baruva and Peta. I have been managing it.

Q.—Have suits been filed in the Baruva estate?

A.—The cases are still pending. They were decreed, there being no pleader.

Q.—Have you appealed against them?

A.—For want of money, no appeal was preferred.

Q.—Is it not a fact that grain-rent has been changed into cash rent in respect of some lands? That (cash rent) is being paid. Isn't it?

A.—We are paying it. We cannot but pay it. They wouldn't leave (us).

Q.—What are the rates?

A.—The wet rate is Rs. 10 to 32.

Q.—Did you submit a petition stating that the channel was not in good condition?

A.—The District Collector said that bunds should be constructed. He said that under the existing conditions it was not possible to effect the works desired by us and that he was laying a strong bund. He passed orders accordingly. That also was of no avail.

Q.—Did you submit a petition again? Did the Tahsildar come and inspect it? Did he say that there was good water-supply?

A.—He wrote that the supply was good when he came. When the authorities come on their visits somewhat good supply of water would be allowed (by the estate officials).

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Are there sub-tenants—under-tenants?

A.—Yes. People going to Rangoon give the lands to under-tenants.

Q.—Are they to be given any share?

A.—The entire yield will go to the zamindar's share itself. Nothing is given to the pattadar.

Q.—Of course, nothing is being given at present. But supposing a share is to be given, how much should the ryot have and how much the under-tenant?

A.—The pattadar should have one-half and the under-tenant one-half after deducting expenses.

Q.—How much do you think should be given to the zamindar?

A.—One-sixth of the balance after deducting cultivation expenses, etc.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Do the tenant and the under-tenant share equally?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How far is this (village) from Baruva?

A.—It is 3 miles from Baruva.

Q.—Have you any under-tenants?

A.—No. We ourselves do the cultivation.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Do you plough the land yourself or get the ploughing done by others?

A.—We plough it ourselves and also have it ploughed by others.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—The wet land is of the same class as in Government villages. It is in the possession of the under-tenant. How much does he pay?

A.—Yes. I have not cultivated it myself. I have received some grain and some cash. At the present market rates, it comes to Rs. 8 or 10 per acre.



Witness No. 8.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Teppala Punneyya, son of Venkataswami, aged 44 years, agriculturist and President, Baruva Ryots' Association, residing at Baruva (zamin), Sompeta taluk.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What do the papers filed by you say about the Baruva estate? (The witness produced some papers.)

A.—Those are papers relating to 'Tribhagi' (two-thirds to the zamindar and one-third to the ryot). The Government have held that the lands can yield only a single crop. Unable to put up with the trouble of 'Tribhagi' we have applied for settlement, offering to pay reasonable rates. Survey was done. Ever since the settlement, a sum of Rs. 15,369-12-0 has been demanded.

Q.—Is it more or less than 'Tribhagi'?

A.—It is more. It has been then increased by Rs. 5,000. There has been an increase of Rs. 5,000 over the previous amount.

Q.—Have you preferred an appeal to the Settlement Officer against this amount of Rs. 15,369 and odd?

A.—Yes. He has raised it to Rs. 17,840-2-10.

Q.—Have they raised it cent per cent over the rate prevailing in fasli 1308?

A.—Cash-rents amounted to Rs. 17,000 in fasli 1332. It has increased by 50 per cent.

Q.—Have you appealed against this sum of Rs. 17,000 to the Revenue Board?

A.—We compromised, agreeing to the Settlement Officer's original figure of Rs. 15,000. The Revenue Board wanted an enquiry to be made whether the 'Tribhagi' system applied to bunds and mounds. We entered into a compromise for Rs. 15,000. In spite of the compromise, we had to pay at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre.

Q.—How much was it before?

A.—There used to be partly grain rent then.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Did the zamindar file suits for arrears?

A.—The Settlement Officer increased the amount from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 17,000. The malukdars filed suits for arrears. We preferred an appeal to the Board of Revenue against the amount of Rs. 17,000 fixed by the settlement. A separate suit was filed for arrears. We agreed to pay Rs. 15,000.

Witness No. 9.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chowdari Krishnamurti, son of Chowdari Kangali Nayudu, aged 55 years, agriculturist and Vice-President of Manda Estate Zamin Ryots' Association, residing at Anjagam, Mandasa estate, Sompeta taluk.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Is the Mandasa estate under the Court of Wards?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the Court of Wards making changes?

A.—The office of the Court of Wards has been effecting changes. The office is in Mandasa.

Q.—Has any one on behalf of the Court of Wards come here?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have you communicated anything in writing?

A.—No.

Q.—How much lands do you have in this estate?

A.—I have 50 acres of land, both wet and dry. I pay Rs. 400 and odd.

Q.—What is your complaint?

A.—The rent has gone up. The rates are as high as Rs. 25. The minimum rate is Rs. 15. The wet rate ranges from 15 to 25.

Q.—What facilities for water-supply do you have?

A.—There are only small tanks. No repairs are done to them. There is the Mahendranathaya river. There is no anicut to it.

Q.—How far away is it from cultivable land?

A.—If a dam is constructed, it will irrigate two or three thousand acres.



Q.—What is the extent of the estate?

A.—It is 28 square miles.

Q.—What have you come to say? You have said that the wet rate ranges at present from 15 to 25 and the dry rate from Re. 1 to Rs. 4-8-0. How long since have these rates been in force?

A.—These have been in force since 1906.

Q.—Have these rates prevailed for the last 31 years? Have they not increased?

A.—They have not increased. The increase took place between 1910 and 1922. The rate after 1922 has continued till now. Remission is being granted by the Court of Wards.

Q.—You have said that there was an increase during the period mentioned above. Why was there an increase?

A.—The rates were increased as a result of the hardships to which we had been subjected. There used to be cash rents previously. They wanted to share the produce and prepared estimates for shares. What was formerly one thousand has now increased to three to four thousands.

Q.—Did the settlement take place in 1922?

A.—The increase was effected from 1906.

Q.—What were the rates in the Mandasa estate before the settlement?

A.—There were cash-rents. They used to give the land in a village on a lease for four or five hundreds.

Q.—Did the ryots have the possession of lands?

A.—They used to pay cash-rents.

Q.—What does it mean?

A.—Rates were not fixed per acre of land. Lease was obtained in respect of the entire land. We used to say that we would pay so much amount collectively for the lands in the possession of all the ryots. Usually, the lease would stand in the name of the village and the ryots would apportion the rent amount among themselves as so much per head. Four or five leading men used to execute the agreement to pay a specified amount (of rent).

Q.—Was any increase made at the time when the cash system was replaced by the lease system? You said that you were paying cash before 1906.

A.—Cash system and lease system mean one and the same thing. In 1906, the then existing system was changed and a grain share was demanded on the system of estimate. They had estimates prepared. Muchalikas came to be introduced. Ever since, there have been disputes and litigation. It changed into the system of estimates. Estimate and Amani mean the same thing in this estate also.

Q.—Are you paying the rent to the zamindar?

A.—We are paying when it is decreed by a court. Some pay and some do not.

Q.—There have been disputes ever since 1906. Is it not?

A.—We asked for Survey and Settlement in 1911. For eight years, they kept quiet. In 1917, they said that they would effect survey. Settlement work was started in 1920. Prices rose up by that time. Settlement rates were based on the high prices then prevailing.

Q.—What is meant by income?

A.—Preparing estimates.

Cash-rents used to prevail in the Mandasa Estate prior to 1906. They used to be approximately Rs. 5 or 6 for wet and Re. 1 or Rs. 2 for dry. Anticipating the Estates Land Act, they demanded share in the produce. No one accepted it for four years. There were disputes and litigation. Only 20 or 30 persons paid. The ryots out of fear demanded survey and settlement. High estimates were made as a result of the high prices prevailing during the war time and rates were fixed at Rs. 25 per acre of wet and Rs. 2 to Rs. 4-8-0 per acre of dry.

Q.—How long is it since the Court of Wards took charge?

A.—It is now two years. We had no facilities at all before that—during the time of Ramakrishna Deo. A remission of 1 lakh and 50 thousands was granted for fasli 1947(?). There are still decrees for arrears amounting to 3 or 4 lakhs. Suits were filed without the knowledge of the ryots. The ryots did not know anything except affixing their marks. All decrees were passed ex parte only. In Uddanam, etc., villages, rates at Re. 1 to Re. 1-1-0 per acre are charged. Long, long ago, i.e., before 1906, this rent prevailed.

The witness showed a receipt for Rs. 1,500 and said that the rent for the same is now Rs. 3,000 and odd. What was Rs. 3,000 for Karthalapalem has gone up to Rs. 10,000. What was Rs. 1,000 for Loharibanda has increased to Rs. 3,300. They gave 20, 30, 40 acres in every village to their own men. When they cultivated the lands themselves, they did not get even Rs. 2 per acre.



Q.—How do you know that?

A.—They used to take 8 carts to fetch the produce. They used to bring back only 10 carts. Unable to put up with this hardship, we submitted a petition for Survey. But nothing was done. No repairs were done after the Settlement was made. There are no tanks. There will be loss both when there is too much rain and when there is scanty rain. That is the reason why we are heavily in arrears to the estate.

Q.—You say that you have 50 acres of wet land. What increase in rent has been made thereon?

A.—We were paying Rs. 120 formerly. It has now increased to Rs. 360.

Q.—Why did it increase?

A.—It has increased as a result of estimates and high prices.

Q.—Is your land, wet or dry?

A.—It consists of both wet and dry. Formerly it used to be Re. 1-8-0. Now it is Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 3. It has considerably increased. They have enhanced the rent by giving the land on lease.

Q.—Did you agree to it?

A.—We disputed it and filed petitions in the court. This took place some 20 years back.

Q.—What further levies are there?

A.—There are forest levies. Formerly fuel used to be obtained free of cost. That was prior to 1906. Subsequently from 2 annas and 4 annas per cart-load, it gradually rose to Re. 1-4-0 and Re. 1-8-0 per cart-load. There were no fees in the past for grazing cattle. Now they are taking fees.

Q.—Tell us about water facilities?

A.—There are five tanks in our village besides the Gedalanaidu tank. They serve ten villages. But at present, there is not enough water even to wet the surface. Much loss is sustained as a result of joint pattas.

Q.—What rate do you pay now? Did the Court of Wards do you any good?

A.—They have granted some remission, but it has not been of any benefit. If we should have at least the Government jirayati rates, it would be of some advantage. There are Government lands at a distance of 2 or 3 miles from our lands. The wet rate near Baruva is, Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-8-0. There are two agraphams belonging to us. The grain-share is 10 and 15 per acre. Nothing is left to us.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—There were cash-rents in 1906, and that there used to be grain-rents previously. What share does the ryot get and what share the zamindar? Is it satisfactory?

A.—I do not know. They used to give a half-share which was found very difficult. An acre would yield about 8 or 9 putties. It would be Rs. 9 to Rs. 20. The yield is 25 putties. All told it (expense) would be Rs. 25.

Q.—What share could you give without difficulty?

A.—We can give one-sixth share after deducting expenses.

Q.—Are there any water-sources to your estate? There is the Mahendragedda. In what State is it?

A.—It has become shallow. We submitted petitions for its repair. It has not been repaired. Crops have failed as a result of it. Five villages are irrigated with its water. Even that has stopped now. There is no lease system among us. We cultivate the lands of sowcars and those who have gone to Rangoon and get a half-share in the produce. That is not enough even to pay the rent. Our village has been surveyed. The system of jamabandi is necessary and reasonable. It would be well, if the system obtaining in Government villages is adopted. The zamindars do not furnish accounts. It would be convenient if the Government system prevails. There are lands encroached upon by the zamindars. They may be cultivated with their permission.

We have forests and hills. Fees are levied for obtaining stones and fuel from there. Fees are levied for beams, etc., required for houses. Formerly this fee was not charged. This is an unjust fee. It will be advantageous if a single rate is fixed. Remission should be granted, when no repairs are effected. Repairs should be effected by the estate. We have no money. It has been laid down that repairs below Rs. 5 should be done by the ryot. We like it. There are guards and rangers attached to the estate forest.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, the witness said :

“The system of granting permits commenced and existed from 1906. Formerly, fuel used to be obtained.”



Questioned by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said as follows:—

Prior to 1906, it used to be obtained free of cost. I do not know it personally but I know from enquiry. The forest is ten miles away from our place. The forest is guarded and the guards are paid.

Our village had 2,000 acres under the Mahendra gedda. All that has gone now. There are tanks besides it. No repairs are done to them. Rupees 20,000 would be enough for the repairs. Estimates are being prepared now. The Court of Wards said that they would do these repairs.

The forest does not belong to our village. It belongs to the Mandasa estate. Our village has no lands under the said ayacut. Even the Court of Wards after its advent said that they could not reduce. We asked for it by submitting petitions. I am not aware of having been submitted a petition separately. We have not submitted a petition. Jama-bandi takes place. The Court of Wards furnish the accounts we ask for, but there has been no necessity (for them).

There are five tanks and 300 acres of land in our village. Three tanks have become useless (by becoming shallow). It is possible to wet the surface once or twice from the other two tanks. They have not taken the trouble to do repairs. Nothing was done during the time of Ramakrishna Rao Deo. The Court of Wards has been in existence for the past three or four years. We have sent up petitions. No action has been taken on them. We represented the matter to the Collector. Mr. Rahman Sahib said that he would make an enquiry. At present the wet rates range from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20.

Questioned by Mr. Jogayya, he said:

Though the forest is at a distance of ten miles, we have a right to it.

Questioned by the Raja Sahib, he said:

We have no documents. We have the same rights as all others.

**Witness No. 10.**

**Vizagapatam.**

**8th January 1938.**

**Oral evidence of Mr. Marupu Chandrayya, son of Marupu Ramayya, aged 45 years, of Madanapuram, Mandasa estate.**

I am a zamin ryot. Our taluk used to be under cash-lease system. But thereafter since 1906 they have spared no pains to change the cash-rent into grain-rent by preparing estimates and computing shares and causing every kind of harassment. (The witness presented the demand for the village for Rs. 1,300.) Formerly it used to be less. In 1922 settlement was effected, the rent having been raised to Rs. 13-8-0 and a patta having been granted. I am not able to give out the total amount. Four or five months thereafter pattas were again altered, the rates being changed to Rs. 21 and Rs. 22. It now stands at Rs. 25. That belongs to Marupu Chinnayya (presented another patta of Ugiripalle Madusudana).

Questioned by Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., the witness said: A plot of 4 acres of land which used to be charged a rate of Rs. 4-8-0 in 1899 is now being charged Rs. 21-8-0. I do not know what expenditure had been incurred. God only knows it.

Questioned by the Chairman, he said: We submitted a petition that we are poor. Reduction has been made by As. 1-6 or 2 annas. Pattas of this kind have been granted to every ryot.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: It was the settlement officials that enhanced the rate. I do not know why survey has been made. I do not have the settlement report with me. It (the total rent) is Rs. 1,300.

Questioned by the Chairman, he said: Formerly forest was allowed to be used free of charge. But we are being troubled now by fees being levied and numbers being assigned. During the regime of Srinivasa Rao Maharaja a single fee of Re. 1-4-0 was levied for wood and green leaves. We were subjected to various other troubles. No fee was charged for grazing sheep or goats in the forest. Now As. 1-6 or 2 annas is being charged. Formerly nothing was charged for obtaining wood for agricultural purposes. Now fees are being charged.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: We cannot bear these taxes. We have no documentary evidence. I am relating what happened in the past. The forest does not belong to our village. It is four or five miles away. This has been provided with gates by the estate and is guarded. Since my boyhood, i.e., for about thirty or forty years, there have not been any irrigation facilities.



Witness No. 11.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Macha Nookanna, aged 55 years, of Monangi Agency Muttah of Salur estate.

We have no lands. We live in hilly and mountainous tracts. We have grievances relating to forests. One rupee is to be paid if we have to cut *podu* and afterwards Rs. 2 is to be paid. Suits are filed against us on the ground that we have cut wood. Forest Rangers and guards demand Rs. 16, 15, 20 and 30. We used to live by cutting wood in forest. When I was young, this trouble did not exist. There were no foresters then. Road construction was done. Ryots from fourteen villages had been sent for. Out of this 3 pies or 6 pies (at least) is not given to us. We lay roads. We have to escort the Ranger by doli to Makkuva and Salur. We transport people from place to place on cots. We actually pay As. 2-1 for irusu sticks and one anna for bamboos. We have no lands. We grow oodalu, chamai and ragi. Our landlord has gone to mokhasa. Our village contains 20 people. The rate for *podu* in the past was Rs. 12. It has now become Rs. 20, 30, 40 and 60. This is the work of our Diwan. Besides, suits are being filed. We are paying forest fees now. They take the fees after 16 to 30 bushes are burnt. They would not allow us until money is deposited for a permit. Unable to bear these troubles, the people of two villages have migrated. A compounding fee of Rs. 30 per year is collected. We have paid Rs. 33 for tamarind trees. The duty for four maunds of tamarind is 4 annas. If a tree is cut, Rs. 1-8-0 is charged. How long can we pay these levies and carry on our business? We are asked to pay the levies whether or not we have kanji or anything for our sustenance. Rupees 60 is charged for timber for house construction. Nothing is charged in the case of tamarind trees. Receipts are not granted. There are receipts for fees amounting to Rs. 200 per head.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: To pay taxes we borrow. We pay out of the produce we get and we live on jeelugu flour and palmyra roots. For turmeric, leaves or any other item of forest produce, there is a duty. We labour from morning to evening. For our village as a whole, we pay Rs. 60. There are 16 families. We grow plantains and turmeric. We have to pay levies for these. We sell these things at shandies nearby. We do not know acreage. It is not much. I have no irrigation facility like a canal.

In reply to the question of Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said: We give pumpkins, elephant yam, etc. We are sixteen families here. Each family consists of two or three members. White dorais have been stationed on our hill. One-half goes to them and we get the other half. We have got our lands. Lands not under cultivation have been given to them. There is not a single house. Mr. Mulle demands a share in my land. He has made an abode in our land. He claimed a half share in it. We reported to the estate authorities that before his advent the land had belonged to us. We are a nomadic tribe.

Witness No. 12.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Bhaskarabhatla Venkatesam, son of Bhaskarabhatla Padmanabham, aged 37 years, of Ramabhadrapuram, Salur estate.

I am a ryot. I might have 20 acres, wet and dry. Of this, the dry land would be 4 or 5 acres and the wet is 16 acres. Grain-rent seems to have existed in the past. As per the kadapa of 1907, the lands stand in the name of Kirla Bhumanna. I am an inam ryot as per kadapa. It is specified therein that for such cultivation the rate for wet land is Re. 1 to Rs. 2. Rents have been altered accordingly. Estimates were made and leaseholders were called upon to affix their signatures. Survey was done in 1927, the result being cent per cent enhancement. The survey was privately done by the zamindar. Agreements and counter-agreements were entered into. Pasture lands were again surveyed and granted on pattas. We entered into litigation and effected a compromise.

[The witness showed two receipts for Rs. 37-10-1 and Rs. 43-3-8.]

The survey was made in 1927-28. That ended in enhancement (of rents). They said it was new No. 88-A. In fasli 1339 (?) for No. 88, it was Rs. 25-3-1; for No. 88-A, they have charged Rs. 43-3-8. They levied this and saying that there had been encroachment of land, they took agreements by compulsion. They filed encroachment cases saying that pasture-lands had been encroached upon. Similarly, receipts are not available in respect of patta No. 59. For Rs. 14-1-1 a sum of Rs. 51 has been charged. No protest was made against the survey and it was decided *ex parte*.



They executed the decree and we paid the amount. There used to be some waste land adjoining it. Since it was brought under wet cultivation (?) our cultivation was ruined. Formerly the village had 300 acres of land collectively. These pattas were granted twenty years ago. Some portion of this is covered by *vagus*. A rate of 8 annas is levied in the case of some kind of land. This has been given away to the people of other villages. At present, that hill is not in our possession. The ryot has to pay Rs. 3 per cart-load of fuel (?), if it is meant for his own use. The estate does not have the same kind of forest. There are no limits (to the forest). A fee of Re. 1 to Rs. 5 is to be paid. A fee is levied on brinjals and on palmyra leaves. A fee is levied on wood that is purchased. (Showed some receipts.) A fee is payable in respect of pumpkins and brinjals. This has been going on for 11 to 15 years to my knowledge. A fee is payable even on ryotwari crops. Tanks are not repaired. Our village has got six tanks, and they have not been repaired for the past twenty or thirty years. Only expenditure has been shown in accounts, but no work has been done. (Repairs) have never been done. Remission has never been granted.

In answer to Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said: I cannot say what rent prevailed in respect of Ramabhadrapuram in 1927. I have filed a paper. Each patta is held jointly by 30—40 persons. If under joint pattas one falls into arrears, thirty people would be proceeded against. I wish that there should be no joint pattas.

It is desirable that there should be four instalments from the 15th July to the 15th December.

Answering the Chairman, he said: There is no levy on ploughs and service. If payment is not made, property is attached. The ryot himself has to bear the cost (of distraint, etc.). Attachment of crops without estimating the yield is disadvantageous. Pattas do not exist. There are no receipts. I have filed what all I had. There are no receipts for expenditure. I cannot definitely say.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: I belong to Ramabhadrapuram. I do not possess any land there. I have a small inam and twenty acres of dry land near Gokavaram. It does not bear any patta number. I purchased it. I myself do not know whether the original owners had pattas. I have been paying rent thereon. The land on the whole does not entirely stand in my name. I have got the registered deed. It is held as a joint subdivision. We have not asked for subdivision.

Witness No. 13.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Penta Sriram Bhagavan Das, son of Penta Parava Nayudu, aged 60 years, Kaviripalle, Salur taluk.

I am a ryot. I pay Rs. 130. I pay for Singandavalasa Rs. 307, Petlavalasa Rs. 36 and Gisala Rs. 156. I have been paying all this. Besides I have some inam land. I simply cannot mention our troubles in respect of rents and forests. The rent in Kaviripalli is Rs. 130. During my grandfather's and father's time, it was Rs. 25. It was raised in my father's time. Before the advent of the Estates Land Act, quarrels existed between ryot and ryot. On this account, rents increased. Subsequently during Peda Raja's time, we entered into some sort of agreements. Again, now in the present Raja's time there used to be some waste lands and pasture lands. The previous agreements used to be typed and sent to us and our signatures obtained (thereto). What was Rs. 115 was raised to Rs. 100 even during the time of my father. The rent was enhanced every year. After the Estates Land Act came, Rs. 151 was charged. During the time of Pedda Raju, they used to lay down all sorts of conditions. We came to know of this, after the Forest Act came into force. When rangers were appointed, they asked us to look into the cowles. Cattle were deprived of all pasture. I do not know the acreage. I am cultivating all that land. Receipts used to be granted. The previous records were destroyed by fire. I have got with me receipts for four or five years. The burden of taxation should be reduced.

Q.—How do you want it to be reduced?

A.—It is enough if rates similar to those obtaining in Government villages are fixed for us.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: Yes. We would be satisfied with the rates prevailing in Government villages whatever they may be. We shall abide by the laws of the Government. We did not read the extent of land surveyed and



granted to us. We do not know the extent in acres. Assignments (of land) were made by order. The patta standing in my name was destroyed by fire. No other document has been given to us. No cowle has been given for the past ten years to any ryot. The one previously granted was destroyed by fire. Our Makkuva Mutha has not got one. Previously it used to be in the name of my grandfather, father and uncle (father's younger brother). There are receipts. I have not brought them. I shall file the same. The family site is jointly in their and my name. I am paying (rent) every year. The land does not give any yield. There are no tanks. There will be crops, only when there is rain. But rents have to be paid compulsorily. There is no other means of livelihood. We live and pay rents.

Q.—Are you free from debt?

A.—What should we say of our fate hereafter. The zamindars have been teasing us like anything. Government are our benefactors. There is a ryots' association in our village. We are all ryots. We are not in arrears to the zamindar.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—You say there are troubles relating to hill and forests. What are they? Are there fees for them?

A.—There were no fees previously. We used to get (fuel, etc.), from jirayati and forest areas. They fixed Rs. 10 for the village. It was increased to Rs. 55. Formerly there was no objection to our getting even grass and wood. Now, nothing can be brought. Forest cases are filed. Four or five cases have been filed this year in respect of our village. Now they have served a 'G' notice under the Forest Act jointly on four or five villages. There is an agreement for Rs. 55 in respect of one village only. It has been filed.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said : The village agreement has been filed. It is not a forest patta. I had a jirayati patta. It was destroyed by fire. In respect of one village, there was a joint patta for the ryots of the village, the amount stated therein being Rs. 55. I have filed that. The forest is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. There are numberless servants to prey upon us. I do not know if they are paid. There is no receipt. I shall get it whenever you want it.

Witness No. 14.

Vizagapatam.

8th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pentakota Sriramulu, son of Suryanarayana, aged 40 years, Munagapaka, Anakapalle taluk, Chemudu estate.

I am a ryot of the Chemudu estate. We have sent a separate memorandum which was passed at a Conference presided over by Tyagaraya Sastri Garu. We submitted resolutions relating to the whole estate. The lease system prevails in the three thanas of Anakapalle, Mangavaram and Nakkapalle. When cowles were transferred to the son from the father in our estate, rents were increased. No fees were charged for patta transfers.

The rent for Pedaramabhadrapuram when the land was in the father's name was Rs. 263-14-7. Thereafter, it was increased to Rs. 276-15-0. This took place in 50 years ago. The same rates exists even to-day.

*Patta 33 (Pedaramabhadrapuram).*—In fasli 1292, it was Rs. 202-8-8. In 1935, it became Rs. 219. In fasli 1284, it was Rs. 226. In 1925, it was Rs. 249-0-1.

*Paltheru.*—The rent for patta 25 in fasli 1295 was Rs. 86-6-11. All these increases were made when lands came to the son from the father and at the time of patta transfers.

*Paltheru patta 16.*—The rent for fasli 1300 was Rs. 65-2-8; for fasli 1311, it was Rs. 69-8-0. Now it carries Rs. 73-7-9. These enhancements were due to the changes in the cowledar's name.

*Paltheru patta 18.*—For fasli 1292 the rent was Rs. 53-1-4, in fasli 1320 it was Rs. 62-13-6. This relates to a single patta. This came to the son from the father.

*Godicherla, patta 39.*—For fasli 1296, it was Rs. 157-8-5; for fasli 1317, it was Rs. 170-9-9. The same rent exists even to-day. It has been transferred from the father to the son.

*Guntupalli, patta 29.*—In 1296 it was Rs. 199-8-3; in 1337 it was Rs. 214-8-3. In this manner, an increase has been made when the possession of land was transferred from one person to another. In 1295 it was Rs. 132-4-9 and in 1337 it was Rs. 159-5-2



*Mamidivada.*—In 1296 the rent was Rs. 39-0-1 and in 1318, it was Rs. 51.

The witness presented two other pattas.

Then, there was the jirayati purchased by the ryot. When transfer of pattas was effected, the rent was increased. I am citing a sale deed and patta as a sample. An increase in rent is made when a transfer from any person is effected. I shall explain that. I am giving particulars of each case. I purchased the land in fasli 1314 for Rs. 1,000. The rent for it was Rs. 198. We divided the patta lands into three parts. They increased the rent by one anna in the rupee and made it Rs. 96. As the cowle was transferred in the name of one person, the increase was made in respect of one person only. On the plea of providing water facilities, they collected the increased rent. They filed suits, when payment was not made. The Collector gave his decision. There are many channels, streams and tanks in our estate. But they are not in good repair. They lease them out. The estate authorities effect repairs to channels. There is an ayacut under the streams and the Sarada channels. They are situated in the lease villages. There are no proper irrigation facilities. The land covered by irrigation sources has been given over for cultivation. The lands further down have become useless. It is not used as tank. Some are like that. It is not possible to describe those that are in disrepair. Petitions have been submitted. Suits were filed against all the ryots. The excess amounts charged were disallowed and decrees passed in favour of ryots. Suits were withdrawn during the regime of Mr. Sanyasiraju Pantulu. So far, there have been no arrears. Nothing has been done since 1925. A certain tank has breached in its bunds. Remission was sought on this account. They asked us to file a suit for the loss sustained, as per the lease. They asked us to file a suit for failure to supply water. The suit for loss is pending. This land is under an ayacut. It was given to another. We have submitted a petition. We gave it to the pettanamdar and he received it. The rates in our estate range from Rs. 8 to Rs. 30. All the land belongs to the same class. In adjoining Government villages for the same class of land the rate ranges from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 according to the individual. The trouble consequent on joint pattas is that suits are filed against one for the arrears due from others. Round about Anakapalle, vegetables are grown on dry land. Sugarcane is also cultivated. The rate for it is Rs. 30. The rate is not different for different crops.

When we construct houses in our patta lands, suits are filed for their removal. They do not permit us to construct houses. They are asking some to go away. They are serving orders and notices. To my knowledge, they are 25 or 30. They say that the land is intended exclusively for cultivation. How is it possible to carry on agriculture, if there are no houses near by. Four hundred houses were washed away during the floods season. Suits are filed, preventing construction of houses on their original sites. The Collector ordered payment of Rs. 15 being the costs. An appeal regarding a compound wall is pending in the Judge's court. Rs. 3 was asked to be given as a compromise. They gave it for Rs. 600, saying that houses might be constructed. Seventy cents of land was separately surveyed and mamul jirayati rate charged. Saying that the extent was more than 4 acres, they have taken possession of the crop ready for harvest and are selling the same. We have submitted petitions, contending that it was not the proper rate. We paid as per the Estates Land Act on 26th March 1931. It would be well if all the lands are surveyed.

Q.—How can it be done well?

A.—Survey and settlement should now be done and a record of rights prepared immediately. Government rates applicable to similar lands should be fixed. We should have rates similar to those in Government villages. We want that. There should be one uniform rate for all the villagers. Our rates are a little less, my father having been a village munsif. They have increased it by one-quarter anna. As we have been doing service to them, they have levied a lower rate. Water sources have become spoiled. They should all be brought under irrigation sources. The ryots should have full rights to construct houses. Rent should be collected for those houses that have been constructed.

*Collection of rent.*—The amin has one farm. The panchayat or Government should collect rent. It should be made regular. There are lands which are charged wet rates. Those who have accepted them have paid them and the others have not. A fixed sum should be set apart for works every year. The Public Works Department or the panchayat should do this. A sum of 4 annas in the rupee on the whole should be set apart.

Closed at 6-30 p.m. on 8th January 1938.



Witness No. 19.

Vizagapatam.

9th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Tamarla Konda Nayudu, son of Appanna, aged 66 years, agriculturist, residing at Makharampuram, Jalantra estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Do you live in Jalantra Estate?

A.—Yes. We are ryots living in Makharampuram.

Q.—What is the extent of your lands?

A.—It will be 40 acres.

Q.—How much of it is wet land and how much, dry?

A.—I have 10 acres of wet land and the rest is dry.

Q.—What rent do you pay to the zamindar?

A.—More than Rs. 100.

Q.—How much do you pay for one acre of wet land?

A.—Rs. 10, 8, 6—For 4 acres at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre; another 4 acres at the rate of Rs. 6 per acre; for the rest at the rate of Rs. 10 per acre; Rs. 2 for dry land and Rs. 3 for garden lands.

Q.—You are now speaking of rates?

A.—There are no crops owing to the absence of water-facilities. Such is the income. Rents are high. Rents were low in the past.

Q.—When were the rents not so disproportionately high for the income, as they now are?

A.—Rents were not so high previous to fasli 1301 as now. They used to be low.

Q.—What was the rate of rent at that time?

A.—The rate for dry lands was As. 12 and Re. 1 for wet lands. The present rate of Rs. 8 used to be Rs. 2 only previous to fasli 1301. Thereafter "Athukubadi" was done.

Q.—What is meant by "Athukubadi"?

A.—Individualwar pattas were granted.

Q.—Were there no individualwar pattas before fasli 1301?

A.—No. At first we did not accept them. But we were persuaded to accept the same. For 11 years we paid rent in that manner. Then they said that they would enhance the rent by 8 annas in the rupee. For 11 years, the individualwar patta system was applied to us. Thereafter, the rent was increased by 8 annas (in the rupee). Cases were filed against us. We won in the Collector's court. When they filed suits in the munsif's court we again won. We won the suit in the District Judge's Court also on appeal. A compromise was arrived at when the case came up for appeal to Madras. A permanent rate of assessment was fixed and an assurance was given to the effect that we would be allowed to take free of charge timber, fuel, etc., from forests and the like.

Q.—What arrangements were made in the compromise deed?

A.—Pleaders have done everything. What do tillers of soil like us know about it?

Q.—How much have they charged per acre?

A.—The rate per acre according to the compromise is Rs. 8, Rs. 6 and Rs. 3 and the same rates continue even to-day. There are no water facilities. If there is good harvest in one year, crops fail for the next four years. Good harvest depends upon good rainfall, in the absence of which crops fail.

Q.—Can you get water to your lands in the absence of a tank?

A.—Repairs are not done to the tank. "Chinkili Sagara" lies in a state of utter disrepair. It can supply water to Kolleru firka consisting of 40 villages. Absolutely no repairs have been done to it up till now.

Q.—Have no repairs been done to other tanks?

A.—Piecemeal repairs are being done.

Q.—Is the water-supply sufficient for you?

A.—If there is water from the river, the supply would be sufficient for us.

Q.—Have you no dams?

A.—No. There is no water.

Q.—What are your grazing rates?

A.—Re. 1 per head of cattle, buffalo and bull, 8 annas for a cow, 4 annas for a goat is being charged.



Q.—When were the present forest rates introduced?

A.—There were no forest rates before fasli 1301. We ryots have never paid forest rates. This arrangement with regard to the grazing of cattle, collection of timber and fuel was introduced after the Estate came under the Court of Wards. Though the rates existed nominally, they were never collected in our taluk. We used to get bamboos for house construction and fuel free of cost.

Q.—When did Jalandhra come into the hands of Vizianagram estate?

A.—Fifty and odd years ago.

Q.—Do you now ask for the reduction of forest rates or for their total abolition?

A.—Why should we now have a thing which we never have had? We are not paying anything even now. Fines are being imposed in Magistrates' Courts on the basis of the number of cattle each one possesses. We do not know other things. They prepare statistics of the cattle possessed by each ryot, file cases in Magistrates' Courts and impose fines.

Q.—Is there anything more? How many forest cases were filed against you?

A.—There are 20–30 cases pending now and 40 cases were disposed off up till now. We are prevented from getting into the forest to graze our cattle and collect wood, etc.

Q.—How far is the forest from your village?

A.—The distance is 1 or 1½ mile. It is very near to some villages.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—When the Government rates of assessment are low, our rents also should be reduced.

Q.—Is remission being granted to you when crops fail?

A.—Remission has never been granted. Rents are being collected after instituting summary suits, from fasli 1301. Our lands too are being auctioned. Rents are never reduced and remission is not granted. For one year of good harvest is followed by four years of failure of crops.

Q.—Do you know the "Padigam Project"? From which place to which place does it supply water?

A.—"Ponnamalla" gets water. It supplies water to the whole taluk also. Water is being brought from a distance of about three miles.

Q.—To how many villages can the Padigama Project supply water?

A.—Water is supplied to "Ponnamalla" at first, and then the whole taluk gets the supply.

Q.—You said that you would contribute money for the project. Are you prepared to bear a portion of the cost, if zamindar contributes a portion?

A.—We, ryots cannot bear. We can contribute only 8 annas or 4 annas for one hundred rupees.

Q.—How many amongst you are coolies? Are you prepared to do manual labour at least, if you cannot contribute money? The zamindar and the Government would contribute money. Coolies should be paid wages. Are the people in your villages prepared to do manual labour at least, in order to get water for the purpose of irrigating their lands?

A.—We have lost the habit of doing manual labour.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—These are all my representations. Rents prevailing in Government (villages), at least should be levied. Remissions are not granted when the crops fail. There are no rains.

Witness No. 20.

Vizagapatam.

9th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pyla Ramanna, son of Simhadri, aged 40 years, ryot, residing at Devadi, Urlam estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Do you come from Urlam Estate?

A.—Urlam Devadi. I am submitting a petition stating all the grievances of the ryot (presents petition).

Q.—This petition is signed by some one else. It contains the signature of the President on behalf of Devadi Urlam?

A.—Yes. Those two estates used to be as but one estate. In the past, they belonged to Kannepalli Ramavadhanulu Garu. Subsequently, Buddi Raju Basava Raju Garu got them under a decree.



Q.—Are they two brothers? Have they got them by inheritance? Is there anything to be said about the past history?

A.—The ryots' lot will be redeemed if the rates prevailing in respect of the adjoining Government jirayati lands are levied.

Q.—You are speaking about rates. You say that you would feel happy, if the rates of land assessment applicable to the adjacent Government lands are levied. Do you belong to Devadi?

A.—Yes, I come from Devadi. Two garces—27 puttis.

Q.—What are the respective rates of assessment in your estate and in Government areas for a land which is capable of yielding a garce?

A.—We have a rate of Rs. 25 for an acre. There are only wet lands in the estate.

Q.—What stream have you?

A.—It is called "Urlam Gedda" and "Mabagam Gedda."

Q.—Does the stream Mabagam Gedda join the Vamsadhara?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you have a wet rate of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per acre for your land?

A.—Yes. The Government rate is only Rs. 5-6.

Q.—Have your lands been surveyed?

A.—Prior to the (Estates) Land Act, our lands used to be under the "Estimate" system. Before the advent of the (Estates) Land Act, the rates had been increased obstinately. After the promulgation of that Act, the ryots filed a suit for commutation. 65-80, Urlam estate. 76-80, Devadi which preferred an appeal. (Produces judgment.)

Q.—Was the suit filed in 1910? Who instituted it?

A.—The ryots have instituted suits for the conversion of rents in kind into cash-rents.

Q.—Have you got any other documents?

A.—When a petition was presented regarding repairs to the "Gedda," it was rejected as unnecessary.

Q.—When did you present this petition? Are there any tanks and are they not repaired?

A.—Neither the gedda nor the tanks have been repaired for the last 25 years. We have been sent a registered letter by way of reply saying that there is no necessity for them (the zamindar) to do repairs (produces the registered letter). During the regime of Basava Raju Garu and the uncle of the present zamindar, an increase of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  puttis was made. (It will be evident from papers that during the regime of Basava Raju Garu, an increase of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  puttis was made.) During the regime of Basava Raju Garu  $4\frac{1}{2}$  puttis was added to the assessment which was made when the price was Rs. 18. There was 120 acres of grazing land on the bank of Vamsadhara. Casuarina topes were planted therein on the plea of preventing the corrosion of cultivable land by the river. This is causing inconvenience to the cattle. They are charging 1 anna per head of cattle, for a cow and bullock, 6 pies for a goat and 1 anna for a buffalo-bull.

Q.—Is this not lower than the Vizianagram (rate)?

A.—All this is not grazing land.

Q.—How long since are they doing this?

A.—There are certain portions left, without planting trees, for grazing of cattle. Free grazing is not allowed here as in the past. All this happens in Devadi estate only.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You say that you pay Rs. 20 per acre?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many acres (of land) have you?

A.—I have 9 acres of land.

Q.—How many crops can be raised in your land?

A.—Only one crop.

Q.—Do you sub-lease the land to under-tenants?

A.—I have taken 2 garces and 25 puttis (of land) and lease out a little of it to ryots.

Q.—Don't you cultivate the land yourself?

A.—I do not cultivate it myself. I lease out the land for 2 garces and 25 puttis. Now I have to pay from my own pocket.

Q.—You said that compensation suits were filed in respect of your lands?

A.—Yes.



Q.—Have not the rates been enhanced subsequently?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you petitioned the Collector requesting him to reduce the rates?

A.—We petitioned our estate and not the Government asking for reduction.

Q.—Are the canals in the estate under the joint ownership of the estate and the Government?

A.—I do not know. The zamindar alone is responsible for repairing the tanks and the dam.

Q.—Do you raise two crops in your lands?

A.—There is no water.

Q.—Why did you not petition the Collector requesting that the repairs may be done properly?

A.—The estate authorities have caused repairs to be made at a cost of Rs. 100.

Q.—Was the Collector satisfied?

A.—The estate authorities have deceived the Collector also by not carrying out repairs. The Collector did not (personally) see, but sent a notice to the estate. The estate authorities have carried out repairs worth about Rs. 100. The Collector stated that he has spoken to them (zamindar) and that they would carry out the repairs.

Witness No. 21.

Vizagapatam.

9th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Brija Sundar Naick, son of Porsu Naick, aged 52 years, agriculturist, residing at Tharlakota, Tekkali taluk, Tarla estate.

[He presents a petition regarding "Guttalu" (hills).]

Q.—Have you got lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rate of rent per acre?

A.—For wet lands the rate is Rs. 20 to Rs. 30.

Q.—What is the rate for dry lands?

A.—There are no measurements. Survey operations were not done and there are no Bhubandhs.

Q.—What are the rates applicable to the adjoining Government lands?

A.—What do I know?

Witness No. 22.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pondala Ramanna, son of Lachunna Nayudu, aged 35 years, residing at Dandu Gopalapuram, Gopalapuram estate, Tekkali taluk.

Our estate belongs to Kodanda Ramaswamy temple under the Religious Endowments Act. Originally it belonged to the Government. Subsequently it passed into the hands of Balakrishna Nayudu. As he had failed to pay the peshkash Addamanugula Venkubamma Garu purchased it in auction-sale and endowed it to (God) Kodanda Ramaswamy. For the last four or five faslis it has been under the Endowments Board. Our lands are saline. There are dry lands. We grow groundnut. The Government and malukdar threaten distraints and create obstructions. When the amount is paid up and the property is released, it is sealed over for the second kist. The sowcar does not lend money. They (sowcars) take 10 per cent commission and then write (bonds?). The lease amount is collected on the average in one or two kists.

The lands depend on streams. There are no culverts. When Ravikanta Venkata Ramanamoorthy was the malukdar he used to attend to repairs. Rupees 200 worth of repairs have not been effected. For the last five years there has been no wet cultivation at all. Till 1346 (fasli) there was Burra Adinarayana Sastri. This year a new gentleman has come. He has shifted to Kothur this year. We have filed suits in regard to the repairs of our adjacent village. Orders have been issued for repairs costing Rs. 175. It is already six months that the orders were issued but nothing has been done. The authorities have come and taken away money for getting the streams repaired. I have about 20 acres of land in our village of which 5 acres is wet and 15 acres dry. Assessments were levied in the past on the basis of the produce. There has been no survey. I am



paying Rs. 60. The land comprises 4 acres of agrapharam land. In the agrapharam they give a share (of the produce) for dry and wet lands. For one acre of wet land it (the share) used to be  $4\frac{1}{2}$  puttis. Prior to the Endowments Board's administration the cash-rent system prevailed in the estate. The rate in Akasalakkavaram and Meghavaram ranges from 8 annas to Re. 1. Before the advent of the Endowments Board's regime R. V. Ramamurthi Garu collected the whole amount. For the past 25 years we have been paying in this manner. I humbly ask why we should pay (a rate of) Rs. 4 while it is 8 annas in our adjacent villages? There are culverts in Palathalagam. Whenever we represented our grievances to Government officials they used to say that the prices were like that.

In answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu he said :—)

Q.—Have you filed any suits in respect of repairs?

A.—We have filed a suit before the Collector in respect of Kothur. Rupees 1,500 has been decreed. Repairs were ordered to be made but these have not been effected so far. A sum of Rs. 17 has been spent for conveyance charges, etc., to no good.

When questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : I do not know how to petition the Government. We have represented to the malukdar. The Collector too promised to inspect the place.

Witness No. 23.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pisapati Pundarikaksha Achari, son of Srinivasa Achari, aged 30 years, residing at Vavilavalasa, Bobbili estate.

The witness presented a memorandum regarding Bobbili Estate and stated as under :—

I have come on behalf of the Bobbili Estate zamin ryots. I am a ryot. The office of the Ryots' Association is in Nellimerla. In Kondampeta (I have ?)  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of waste land and 8 acres of inam wet. Rents have been enhanced very much. There are no remissions. No irrigation works have been carried out. Irregularities occur in collection work. There has been no survey or settlement. In the case of Adavaram only survey and settlement were effected about a year back. It took place in 1922-37. There had been no settlement before that. In the case of som (villages) private settlement was effected. Both survey and settlement should be effected by the Government. About 3 or 4 years back Government settlement was effected in respect of Karakavalasa, Sangamvalasa Thana, and Adavaram. Private settlement and survey have been effected by Somaraju Chetti Gru of Bobbili Thana in the case of Kottakki, Vadada and Mottavalasa and Mr. Bangara has done resurvey. An appeal was preferred to the Collector and the Board of Revenue. Much injustice has been done in determining the average. The appeal related to Adavaram. The rates of rent are higher than in the adjoining Government villages and other estates. For about 3 acres of the joint patta the assessment is Rs. 8 and one acre of land does not bear any assessment. The burden lying over me has fallen on others. Even Rs. 8 is too much. It ranges from 12 annas to Rs. 3. The same is the case in the estate also. We do not know about the wet lands of the estate. Assessments range from Rs. 8 to Rs. 18 in the case of wet lands under tanks, from Rs. 25 to Rs. 45 in the case of those under river canals and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 12 in the case of dry lands. The assessments have been enhanced 3 or 4 times after the permanent settlement. During fasli 1207 it (the beriz) was about Rs. 1,001-12-0 for Lingalavalasa village. It has now gone up to Rs. 3,500. No settlement for the village was effected then. The extent of land has not become greater now than before. No ryots from that village have come here. There used to be several villages under 'Mustazari' system. About 30 years back, prior to the advent of the Estates Land Act, the zamindar had, through the grant of leases, afforded an opportunity to certain individuals to enhance assessments. He (one of such individuals) had increased his rent over and above what was due to the zamindar. The assessment of Lingalavalasa village has grown in that manner. [The witness presented a book said to have been written by the karnam in 1883, 1460 (fasli?).]



Vadagaru Gopalakrishnamma, mirasidar, 2,364-3-2. We have brought this from Kallakuri Suryaprakasa Row, retired C.L.

										RS. A. P.		
(1) Fasli 1300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,491	0	10
„ 1397	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,706	and odd.	
(2) 1895 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,835	12	8
Lessee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,030	9	4
(3) Fasli 1296	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,344	5	3
Lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,811	9	3
II Utharavalli—												
Fasli 1297	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,787	12	2
„ 1314	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,881	0	11
„ 1347	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,674	14	3
Embaram 1269	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	950	0	0
At present	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,450	0	0
10—7—1858	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	0	0
1332	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	14	10
Terlem—1304	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,073	6	1
1305	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,724	15	5
1347 about	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,000	0	0
Vadada—1310	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,904	1	11
1347	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,500	0	0
Rajedu—1298	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,243	2	1
At present	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,095	2	8
Penta—1279	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,825	4	1
1286	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,963	12	6
At present	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,600	0	0

Filed kadapas as follows regarding prevailing pattas, Lingalavalasa, Item, 13-A :—

RS.					RS.				
(1) Dry per acre	3.				Under the tank ..	8.			
River canals	10				Till fasli 1329.				
(2) Dry ..	3.				Under the small tank 8.				
Under the big tank	..	..	..	..	} 12—8—0				
River canals	..	..	..	..					
(3) Embaram—Single patta					Different rate assessment.				
(4) Kondampeta—									
1305 dry ..	..	..	..	..	7 for 'Garse'				
Wet. ..	..	..	..	..	15				
1307 ..	..	..	..	..	7 (per) acre			Land-cess.	
					RS. A. P.			RS. A. P.	
Dry, 21—For 1 acre	40 cent			..	60	6	4	} 2 12 4	
Wet, 5—For 1 acre	17 cents	..	..	..	29	2	5		92 5 8

2. *Lingavalasa*.—The dry area as per kadapa was again rented out and in 1927 a judgment was passed to the effect that it was an encroachment.

3. 'Kattan' split up into wet, dry, garden, and trees ; collection 1301 Pa. 11 (fasli ?).

4. A judgment was passed in the Collector's Court for cultivation of the waste land in the patta. Unable to make a further stand ; they had executed 'kadapas.'

5. When a suit was filed on the plea that there was 'jirayati' in inam lands, the 'Defendant' Collector dismissed the suit.

*Adavaram*.—A service inam has been assessed.

*Kondampeta*.—One and the same date, one and the same water-source.

										ACS.	RS. A. P.		
Two rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.20	9	9	7
For fasli 1324, wet lands-cess	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		0	4	10
In patta No. 45											9	14	5
Patta No. 33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.77	9	0	1
Land-cess	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		0	4	6
Total											9	4	7

There is no rate anywhere for the unfair levy of assessment on patta lands. They have determined the same with reference to the (status of the) ryot.

'Devuthula' village.—Three 'garses,' 17 'puttis' has become 2 garses, 9. puttis and 3 kunchams. For 10 acres of wet land the source (of irrigation) is rain.

Patta No. 25.—Rs. 4-15-2. There was a committee suit about it.

Patta No. 49—1346 (fasli ?). A suit was filed but the receipt was granted without the number of the suit having been specified therein.



*Vadada*.—Private survey.

*Occupancy*.—300—Rent. Nazarana. Per acre 35.

*Regadi village*.—Rs. 447-12-4. 21 acres 10 cents. Court auction sale patta No. 8. In 1929, Rs. 200 price. Its upset price in 1924, Rs. 400 Gr. Bid commutation settlement.

Adavaram sale record for 6 to 5 collected.

Gojabar village patta.

This is under the estate's own management. About 50 years back, 'mustazari' for each village was held once. "Own" means "officials." The lands used to be in the possession of the ryots. As regards Kavitha Thana the grain rents were fixed for wet (villages) and cash rents for dry villages. This has changed. It is 5 or 6 years since the lessee has come. After 10 or 15 years 'mustazari' was effected and the estate authorities have taken it over once again. The assessment having increased the extent of land has diminished. This is evident in Lingalavalasa village. Prior to the Estates Land Act the rate of rent used to be one 'garse' for dry (land) and Rs. 7-15-0 for wet (land). In anticipation of the Estates Land Act it was changed to acreage. After the Estates Land Act came into force lands were classified as wet, dry and waste and assessments fixed accordingly. We filed(?). In some of the villages, they filed suits and won them. Unable to get on, they (ryots) executed 'kadapas.' In the aggregate extent of lands in the village, communal lands, tank-beds and burial-grounds also are under cultivation on lease. In Kondrapeta, the burial-ground was 1 acre, and now it is 10 cents. In some cases settlement having been effected privately, the assessments have been enhanced. There is much injustice in the matter of collections. The individual is not allowed to move. Prohibited articles are distrained. The instalments (for payment of kists) are not convenient. We are obliged to sell the produce at low prices. As in the case of collections made by the Government, a margin of time should be allowed (before the kist) for the thrashing and sale of the produce.

For dry (lands)—

July—August—September—December—February—March.

For wet (land)—

October—November—December—March—April—May—June.

Irrigation is not at all satisfactory. There are no bunds to tanks. These have been absent in Thokalavalasa village for the past 90 years according to the statement of a person as old as that. At the time of the last district board elections it was promised that a certain tank would be repaired. The rate under the Anchakandir and Rejedu canal has been enhanced; but no repairs have been effected. About 15 years back certain tanks had no sluices or surplus sluices. The lands therein are being silted up by being leased out. I have seen tanks which have silted up. No repairs have been done to them. Tank-beds are being cultivated. The rates (of assessment) should be reduced and made equal to those applicable to Government lands.

Questioned by the Chairman, he said :—

Per acre of dry (land)—Rs. 4.

For tank-wet (land)—Rs. 3 to Rs. 6.

(For land under) river canal—Rs. 8 to Rs. 12(?).

There are a few forests and the population in the village is on the increase. There is no site available for house construction. There is no land that has been leased out. They do not allow (houses) to be constructed in fields. Joint pattas should be split up and settlement should be effected.

*Irrigation sources*.—There is the Nandimada Project. During the regime of the Raja as Chief Minister, it was promised that a bund would be constructed at Kancharam village. But nothing has been done. There are streams but nothing is done to them. No wells are dug. There are no burial-grounds and no pastures for cattle to graze.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu Garu, regarding collection he said : Either the system of the Government lands or the village panchayat system is desirable. The revenue authorities distribute the water. That is not good. The panchayats should attend to this work. There are no cases of encroachments made by ryots.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said : My age is 30. In 1930 I gave up my studies. I live by cultivation. I have 8 acres of inam in my wife's name and 3 acres of jirayati in my name in Kondapeta. There is no patta. I have the sale deed. As per the deed the dry land on the whole comes to 11 acres and there is



no wet land. Of this 3 acres is waste land. The inam land, if at all it yields, produces 2 garses of grain. One half of 25, 20, 17 puttis of paddy used to be given in my father's time; the income then used to be Rs. 60. I know personally about the rates being high. I have gone about the villages and seen things for myself. As a member of the Taluk Congress Committee I have visited villages for the purpose of propaganda. We have executed muchilikas in favour of the estate, but not of our own accord. All of us being illiterate persons we have unjustly executed them. For want of boldness we have not made any representation. I have been a Congress member for the last three years. I am a member of the South Vizagapatam District Ryots' Association. I have begun securing papers ever since I learnt two months ago that the Committee had been appointed. As no survey has been effected I cannot give the rate. For dry (land) the rate is Rs. 3 to Rs. 2, according to our office. I myself do not know whether they have charged water-rate. There are inams in Uttara-valli and Thernam. I do not know whether they are or are not since(?). The Velam-vari inam has been taken over by the estate and assessed. As in the case of other lands the rate of Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 per "garise" has been levied in respect of it. The same rate is charged for lands in the possession of ryots and for encroachments. Garden lands have been separated and the assessment thereon has become high on account of najarana charged in their case. All the villages were "mustazari" before.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said: I do not know the number of burial-grounds. There is communal land for the construction of houses.

Questioned by the Raja Sahib: Burial-grounds, Komera, Guthavalli, Rajedu, Palteru did not get canal water. Personally I do not know.

Answering Mr. M. Pallam Raju: There is no good of granting patta in the absence of new survey.

Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Beg: The rate for wet lands is Rs. 45 and for Government lands under the canal, it is Rs. 12. For Government lands having such irrigation facilities the rate for even three crops happens to be only that.

Replying Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai, he said: There are no remissions at present. They have instituted a suit for the grant of (remission) 12 [per cent(?)].

Witness No. 24.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chintada Disambara Nayudu, care of Mr. Surapu Nayudu, aged 41 years, Guthavalli, Bobbili estate.

I am a ryot paying Rs. 1,000 (of rent). I have no food to eat. The lands have not been surveyed. The rents have been high since the time of my father and forefathers. My land lies on the boundary of Vizianagram Estate, Palakonda taluk, Ganjam district. It is about 2 acres of 'Garise' land. If the crops are good it gives 15 'garses.' I have a service inam of about 10 acres. This year I am cultivating the land myself. I have paid Rs. 45 or Rs. 50. There is an enhancement of one anna per rupee. During the control year 1921 the price of 'garise' rose from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100. Those prices are not obtaining at present. Those prices were of yore. The inam of 10 acres gives an yield of 3 'garses' of grain. I pay a kattubadi of Rs. 40. The rate for adjoining lands in Ganjam district is Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 6. They (the ryots cultivating those lands) get water (for irrigation) earlier than myself. I shall pay their rate. As it (the rent) was heavy I left it in arrear one year. But the same was collected through coercive measures. The rate in Vizianagram Estate is below Rs. 7. We filed a commutation suit during my father's time. The Collector came, sent for all of us and fixed it (the rent). A decree was given for Rs. 60 and odd. We have been paying that amount. When the Raja was requested to give Rs. 40 he did not comply. Every year the collection is being made through coercive measures. No balance is outstanding. They are also collecting grain as an extra. If the Nayudus fall short of funds, Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 is advanced to them. I am paying cash.

Questioned by Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig, he said: There was about 30 acres of land. He (pointing out a gentleman from the landholders' side) pays Rs. 80 per 'garise.' He was a Thanadar before. It is not a single patta. There are no irrigation facilities. It was in his time that I allowed the rent to fall in arrears. There is Nagavalli canal. Water-charge is made in the case of people like us only but not in the case of persons of a higher status. Formerly the Nayudus had even 4 annas' work done for Re. 1. As regards crops we dig temporary wells for sugarcane. The



present price is Rs. 3. It was Rs. 10 before. The three pattas are in my name and the rest are joint pattas. If they (joint pattadars) fail to pay, they (the estate authorities) say that I should proceed against them.

It is not good that the repairs should be entrusted to the village panchayat. It would be to our advantage if rates applicable to the adjoining lands are adopted, and arrangements are made for survey and collection.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: Sugarcane is not grown in my land. The prices have now fallen; but not during this year and last year. I have cultivated on a small scale  $25\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Q.—Will you pay in grain?

A.—Why should I court that misery also? I am already suffering poverty. A remission of 2 annas was granted when the price was Rs. 60. When remission was sought for when the price was Rs. 50 it was refused. Whereas remission was granted to persons paying Rs. 60 it was refused in the case of persons paying Rs. 30 and Rs. 40. I am now disposing of the inams which were acquired by (my) ancestors.

Witness No. 25.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Simhadri Suryanarayana, son of Veeranna, aged 50 years, Adavaram, Bobbili estate.

According to the present Government survey I own seven acres of wet land and no dry land. For taram 1 the charge is Rs. 30, Rs. 20, Rs. 25, Rs. 14-1-0. There are four tarams.

(The witness presented settlement record.) The rents are high; the extent (area) is small; there is not even an inch of communal land. Hitherto it was Rs. 210. Now it has come to Rs. 100. This came into force in 1936. The amount used to be then collected by force. The aggregate (rent) of the village is Rs. 9,000. Though "Namalu" (remissions?) could not be had, the rent is high. (He showed a plan and said.)

There is no land for cattle (to graze). A uniform rate was charged for 210 acres. What was recorded as Nagavali river channel happens to be after all a drainage channel. The taram has been enhanced. (Exhibited paddy corns.)

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Survey No. 55, good crop, 1 taram, 2 putties .. .. .	30	0	0
2. Survey No. 25, good crop, 12 putties .. .. .	30	0	0
3. Survey No. 59, no crop, 4, 5 putties .. .. .	25	0	0
Kavita per acre of dry, pasture waste lands .. .. .	50	0	0
Khandyam village, 8.57 acres .. .. .	42	6	7
Avutu river lanka land, 1,332.88 acres .. .. .	2,032	5	10
Wet land, 1,062.2 acres .. .. .	23,001	0	0
	and odd.		

Questioned by the Chairman, the witness said: The minimum Government rate is needed. There is land like my land. There are zamindari lands. The rate for these is Rs. 14-4-0. For double-crop first variety, it is Rs. 9-8-0. For first taram crop, it is still less. For Vizianagram zamindari lands depending on "Beedavalasa Gedda," the rate is Rs. 6 and for those under the tank, Rs. 7. If the village panchayat is introduced, we can cultivate the land. Irrigation sources also should vest in the village panchayats. Though repairs may be sanctioned, no work will be done. The Revenue authorities knock away 25 per cent. There are officers who get a share. Joint pattas should be split up. Remission should be granted this year. The Government should arrange for the same.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: Last year, remission was granted. They (the Estate authorities) said that in case the rent was fully paid up, a remission of 2 annas would be granted. I do not know about the suit. When the full amount (rent) had been paid, 2 annas was granted on the whole. I have 7 acres of wet land. I grow paddy, sugarcane, chittaw (second crop), black paddy and greengram. There is no yield. I have leased out my land. I have registered the same. It (the registered



deed) is not with me. It should be obtained from him (the lessee). The condition is that payment (of rent) should be made to the estate. A decree for Rs. 300 has been given. A loan was advanced. I have paid up the principal in full but nothing of interest. The creditor may charge any rate (of interest) he likes. There is no demand for land (when offered for sale) in the village. I do not know the price. The land has been classified into four tarams. These are the rates in force after the settlement was effected. An appeal has been preferred to the Board of Revenue. The amount was enhanced there. There is only injustice wherever one may go. I am a member of the Ryots' Association. I am the Organizer of the Vizagapatam District Ryots' Association. I am now the President.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said: Porambokes (donkas) and thoroughfares are to be found in the plan.

Witness No. 26.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kasireddi Papayya, son of Venkatesam, agriculturist, aged 35 years, residing at Reddipalle Agraharam, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is meant by "Agraharam?" How much land have you? A.—40 acres.

A.—40 acres.

Q.—How much wet land and how much dry?

A.—Fourteen acres of it is wet land and the rest is dry. I have 50 acres of inam land as "jirayati."

Q.—What is the wet rate of assessment on your lands?

A.—It is 14—16—18.

Q.—What is the dry rate?

A.—It ranges up to 8.

Q.—Is it a uniform rate that you pay for all your wet lands?

A.—There are two or three rates. There is the rate of 14 and there is also the rate of 16. There are only two rates.

Q.—How do you get water-supply?

A.—Usually, our lands are dependent on rains and there are tanks. But the tanks have silted up.

Q.—How long is it that the tanks have failed to retain water?

A.—No repairs have been effected so far.

Q.—How many tanks are there for your village?

A.—There are nine tanks.

Q.—How many of them have been repaired?

A.—Two tanks were repaired last year. Even those repairs were not complete and much work is still to be done in connexion therewith.

Q.—Have no repairs been done to the other tanks?

A.—No. Even if repaired, they will not be useful.

Q.—Why would they not be useful, even if repaired.

A.—They have silted up. The question is as to where the silt taken out has to be deposited.

Q.—If the tank has silted up, will it not be possible to deposit on the bunds the silt removed therefrom?

A.—It is not possible to do so. We have put in a petition for the construction of a reservoir. As the tank has silted up, we have requested that a separate reservoir may be constructed.

Q.—Are not repairs necessary for this tank?

A.—Yes. He said that it was no good repairing this tank. The Supervisor said that repairs to this tank would be of no use.

Q.—What else have you to say?

A.—The rates are high. They are 18—16—14. In the neighbourhood, there are 18 to 20 also.



Q.—What rate do you propose?

A.—As the land depends on rain and yields only a single-crop, we propose Rs. 5 as the usual rate. In the other villages of the estate, there is the rate of Rs. 3 also. For wet lands, the rate is Rs. 3 to Rs. 8. As our existing rate is high, it may be removed and a rate equal to the abovesaid rate at least may be fixed.

Q.—Is it because there is water-supply to those whose rate is Rs. 7 to Rs. 8, that you propose reduction of yours?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many more have high rates?

A.—3—4. They exist in several places.

Q.—What is the amount of loss sustained as a result of repairs to tanks not being effected? What is the loss of crops?

A.—The crops have altogether failed this year. We have also applied for remission.

Q.—Has remission been ever granted to your village?

A.—Remission was not given even though it was asked for.

Q.—Why so?

A.—It is left to the pleasure of the estate.

Q.—Did anybody come for inspection?

A.—They inspected but did not grant remission.

Q.—What more do you want?

A.—If houses are constructed in the village site, they are demanding a rate of Rs. 30.

Q.—How much was it before?

A.—They charged one rupee rate before. Ten years ago, remission was granted for two or three years. Now they are demanding a high rate. At first they demanded Rs. 50 and afterwards they agreed to assign sites for Rs. 30.

Q.—Is this sum of Rs. 30 demanded as rent? What is it for?

A.—For constructing a house. According to the area used for construction, they grant (sites) at the rate of Rs. 30.

Q.—Is it not to be paid every year.

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has this been so? Is it in your village alone?

A.—This happens seven or eight months back. In our village alone, my paternal uncle's son applied for it. The amin demanded Rs. 60. He demanded payment at the rate fixed. Finally a notice was issued demanding payment of Rs. 30 or in default, removal of the construction.

Q.—Did he construct an upstairs building?

A.—He has constructed mill godowns. In the house-site, his brother-in-law has constructed a house.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much of such land is there in your village?

A.—There are 600 acres. Pasture land of 300 acres has been transferred into waste land.

Q.—At the time of settlement?

A.—During the settlement of 1904—1908, it was changed into waste land. Prior to that it was "cow pasture land." A green grass-rate also was collected. Some lands were leased out. Still there remains land 300 acres in extent.

Q.—Are you cultivating lands yourself?

A.—Yes. I do.

Q.—How many inam lands have you?

A.—From inam lands, I get a rent of Rs. 300. I have 40—50 acres of inam lands. We pay Rs. 5 to Rs. 18 as quit-rent and land-cess.

Q.—Have you occupied lands on "darkhast?"

A.—The ryots occupy land for grazing purposes.

Q.—Are those lands so occupied used for that purpose? Are the ryots occupying such "cow-pasture lands" and cultivating them? Is the zamindar granting a portion thereof on patta?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How much land of that sort is there in your village?

A.—200 acres.



Q.—Is the occupied “cow-pasture land” ploughed?

A.—A portion of it has been ploughed.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—How much village-site is there?

A.—There is no village-site at all.

Q.—If any houses have to be constructed, do they have them constructed in the fields?

A.—Yes. Houses are being constructed in patta lands alone.

Q.—Are there any papers (to be presented)?

A.—Our people filed a suit in the court praying for revision of the rate when it was Rs. 14 and the suit was dismissed on the estate people pleading that all irrigation rates (facilities) would be improved.

Q.—Was any appeal preferred thereupon?

A.—They (estate people) won the appeal also. (Produced judgment copy.)

[Here Mr. R. Mandeswara Sarma wanted that some men who, he said, are nearby may be examined and the Chairman said “you were not present and your men were not present. Vizianagram people had not the records with them. They want to collect the records.”]

The examination of the witness continued.

Q.—What have you to say about Gopalapuram?

A.—It has not been surveyed.

Q.—What assessments are they paying?

A.—In 1890, it was Rs. 552. A portion of the whole tank area (ayacut)? Dry, wet and gardens was leased out. The total rent used to be Rs. 552. 5-6 years ago, it was more than Rs. 600. Subsequently the dry lands were excluded from the lease and given to others. Now it is given for Rs. 1,250. They are collecting a rent of Rs. 600 in respect of the dry land excluded therefrom. Saying, “The ryots have no right. We shall do as we please.” They have done it.

Q.—Is it inam land?

A.—One-share is mine.

Q.—Have you anything more to say about Gopalapuram estate?

A.—No.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness said: Out of 8 parts, two are ours. We pay Rs. 164 therefor. No survey has been effected. The extent is roughly 5 acres. We are paying Rs. 160 for it.

Q.—What is the expenditure incurred per acre of Gopalapuram land?

A.—It comes to Rs. 38, Rs. 33 are paid (as rent).

Q.—When referring to expenses, do you include rent also therein?

A.—The rent is not included. I have taken into account the cost of seeds, transplantation and cooly.

Q.—How much lands have you in Vizianagram estate?

A.—I have 40 acres. I am paying Rs. 280 for the same. This covers both wet and dry. For wet, I am paying Rs. 14 to Rs. 16.

Q.—How much expenditure do you incur for the Vizianagram land?

A.—The total expense comes to Rs. 38. There is no income. Loss alone would result. Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per acre has to be spent from my pocket. I have petitioned the estate authorities in the matter. (Here he produced a petition.)

Q.—You said that cultivation was done unauthorizedly, that the estate authorities had given over some portion and that they had given some portion to the ryots?

A.—They gave them at the rate of Rs. 35 and charged ‘Nazarana.’

Q.—How much are they collecting from the ryots?

A.—They are collecting at the rate of Rs. 5 and are demanding ‘Nazarana.’ The matter is under dispute.

Q.—Are these permanent inams? Are these inams given by the estate from jero-yati?

A.—There are some ‘darimila inams.’ I have no correct information.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you inams? Are they ‘darimila inams’? Do you know?

A.—I do not know. I am unable to say definitely whether they were granted in the past or subsequently.



Q.—Were darimila inams. Service inams? Were they granted to you yourself or did you purchase them from others? Was it after you had purchased them at the zamindar levied assessment?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is this not wet? What income does it fetch per acre? Do you cultivate it yourself?

A.—I incur loss. If there are proper rains and if the crops give good yield, an income of Rs. 33 to 35 is derived. The expenses come to Rs. 38.

Q.—Are you incurring an expenditure of Rs. 38 against an income of Rs. 33?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You said that no remission was granted in respect of Reddipalle?

A.—It was not given. We petitioned the Estate Collector. He has not done anything. The amin has inspected the land. Last year, the crops were not satisfactory. We have asked for remission only this year.

Q.—You have said that as there are no sites in your village, you are having houses constructed in the fields. Have you petitioned the Collector in this connexion?

A.—I have not petitioned but the 'Panchamas' (Adi-Andhras) have petitioned. I do not know about others.

Q.—Do they charge a rent of Rs. 30 per acre? Is it payable every year?

A.—Yes. A notice to this effect was issued after the Court of Wards had taken over the estate.

Q.—You say that the rate is very high. Was it Mr. Gilman that had effected the settlement and fixed the rates?

A.—I do not know. I am not aware of it personally but I know personally that the rates are excessive. Three to four suits have been instituted about the rates. They have reached the stage of appeal. The ryots having no adequate resources they have given them up. As I did the cultivation myself in fasli 1346, I have fallen into arrears of Rs. 200 for fasli 1346.

Q.—Do you give your lands for cultivation to sub-tenants?

A.—The ryots do not give anything for patta lands or for inam lands. There is no obstruction from ryots to anything being given by others in respect of inam lands.

Q.—What is the extent of your village? Are there 300 acres of communal land?

A.—I do not know. Yes.

Q.—Can you show any authority in support of the statement that it was more than 300 acres before?

A.—No.

Q.—What does the zamindar collect for cattle grazing over 300 acres of land?

A.—Now they are utilizing them as waste lands. They are collecting at the rate of Re. 0-8-0, Re. 1 per acre for grass.

Q.—Does the zamindar charge anything if the cattle move about (on the lands)?

A.—It is far off. It is not so very useful. We do not pay anything to the zamindar. Some ryots pay him at Re. 0-8-0 to Re. 1 per acre. I do not know whether they are now paying it or not.

Witness No. 27.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Kilari Ramamurti, son of Butchanna, agriculture, residing at Potnur, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much lands have you?

A.—I pay a rent of Rs. 150. I have 10 acres of wet land and the rest is dry. The rate for wet land is Rs. 10 to Rs. 18 and for dry land, Re. 1 to Rs. 7. My lands, too, come under those rates.

Q.—What have you to say about the rates?

A.—They obtained our signatures to a petition for the construction of a canal for us. On our representing that loss has resulted, Mr. Glass has come, convened a meeting and ordered a reduction of Rs. 2. We said that it would not be sufficient. We have no river canal at all. The Government have made a farm and are utilizing the water. The sum of two rupees was not at all reduced. They got angry on the score that we had asked



for more reduction. We have engaged a vakil to plead on our behalf. Mr. Glass said that he would chastise us and proved as good as his words. In the recent settlement, the rate was enhanced by two annas. We have represented to the Collector that we would not pay (the enhancement). The Collector came and made an inspection. He cancelled two annas. The estate authorities have preferred an appeal. The karnams and all have dissuaded us from taking up an attitude of enmity towards the estate and brought about a compromise by promising us water-supply earlier than to others. We have no crops. Not even a single 'canny' has been transplanted in the 7 villages under the big tank (Pedda chervu). The bund laid 23 years ago remains as it is. We have no other source. Nothing (useful) has been done for us. They ask us to relinquish.

Q.—Did you then represent (the matter) to the Court of Wards?

A.—We did. None of us have food. We have asked to relinquish our holdings. We have submitted petitions year after year. (Produces documents.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the rate for wet lands?

A.—Rupees 10 to Rs. 18.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Which is your village?

A.—Potnur.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Are there no Government lands by the side of your village?

A.—Yes, Sir, 10 tanks lie silted up.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Are you paying rents? Are you yourself cultivating the land or are you having the cultivation done by somebody? How much expenditure do you incur?

A.—We are ourselves cultivating the land. For those of us having many dependants, the expenses would be small. Those who do not have many will have to spend much towards coolie-hire. An expenditure of Rs. 25 is incurred on our land. This year it has become Rs. 40.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much wet lands have you and how much dry?

A.—Ten acres wet and ten acres dry.

Q.—Are the lands in your village sold?

A.—They are not being sold now. All of them are under mortgage. Hitherto the wet used to cost Rs. 200 (per acre). Nobody would purchase dry land. People would not offer prices for lands.

Q.—What is the rate for the 10 acres of wet lands referred to?

A.—It is Rs. 10 for 1-1½ acre. For the rest it is 18, 16.

Q.—You borrow money on the mortgage of your lands?

A.—Nobody lends money now.

Q.—Are not your lands under mortgage?

A.—All our lands are under mortgage. For 100 (rupees) I had mortgaged the land once and mortgaged it for another 100 (rupees) for the second time.

Witness No. 28.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Reddipalli Sitayya, son of Pothies, aged 35 years, agriculture, residing at Attada, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are you a ryot? How much land do you own? What is the rate?

A.—I am a ryot. I own seven acres—one acre dry and six acres wet. The rate for wet is Rs. 7 to Rs. 8. For dry, it is up to Rs. 1-8-0.

Q.—Have you anything to say?

A.—They have taken the canal used for cattle to graze. There the Maharaja has opened a farm. He has instituted a case against us. They have stopped free flow of water. An acre yields five bags. There is no water-supply. The crops depend on rainfall.

Q.—What is a fair rate per acre?

A.—Can I answer it, Sir? I request that I may be accorded the same treatment as others in the matter. A rent of Rs. 10 per acre has been charged for waste lands. The waste lands used to be utilized for the grazing of cattle for the village as a whole. They had collected Rs. 75 for a single acre. The lands were leased out and afterwards a rent



of Rs. 10 was charged. By "waste land" is meant "poramboke". They were leased out to those ryots whose lands happened to be close by. The waste land used to be serviceable to all the villagers. We used to call it "waste poramboke". It was assessed and given to the adjoining ryots.

Q.—Was not any complaint preferred in the matter?

A.—If our papers were perused, it was said, there would be a reduction of two annas.

Q.—Was not a compromise brought about between yourself and the zamindar in the matter of the water-supply dispute?

A.—They (the estate) have taken the farm-tank and are growing 60—70 "garses" of paddy. If the water-supply is full for them, they allow us water; or else they would not. We have petitioned the Government for water-supply. They (the estate) got a compromise written promising us one-third and retaining two-thirds for themselves. They have taken our papers. It is already ten years that the compromise was effected. Since then, the terms of the compromise have not been adhered to. When there is surplus water in the farm-tank, they allow us water. What is now in force is quite different from what was laid down in the compromise.

Q.—How many tanks are there in your village?

A.—There are two small tanks which are on a level with the ground. There have been no repairs to them since I came of age and could know things for myself.

Q.—Why did you not attend to the repairs yourself?

A.—We are poor people. How can we attend to the repairs?

Q.—The zamindar has not effected these. Is not the crop yours?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it all? Or is there anything more?

A.—There are no forests. There are two bullocks. We (ryots) used to get up the hill and graze our cattle free of permits for seven or eight years in my boyhood.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have they been collecting grazing-fee, if cattle are grazed in waste lands in your village?

A.—They have been collecting it, Sir. When available, they would permit us to go into the waste land, provided we pay up the money for the grass.

Q.—Have they given the lands to ryots?

A.—They have given them only to the ryots of the village.

Q.—What is the price per acre of lands, wet and dry, in your village?

A.—Dry Rs. 25—30 and wet Rs. 50—60.

Q.—What would be the cultivation expenses? How much produce can be raised?

A.—Rupees 10 to Rs. 12 would be spent. Rupees 20 worth of produce can be obtained.

Witness No. 29.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gopisetti Sanyasi, son of Achanna, aged 50 years, agriculture, residing at Nowtheyapalem, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much land have you? What is the rate?

A.—I have 40 acres dry and 15 acres wet. The assessment of wet land is Rs. 7 and of dry Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. Our village has no source of water-supply. The village has a waste land. It has been leased out for cultivation. We had been penning cattle and sheep there. We are experiencing severe hardship. It has been given for Rs. 575. It was given this year in the month of October or November. There is no land for cattle or sheep for the purpose of grazing. There is rocky soil. There are streams and pits. There is no sustenance for cattle. All the people in the village feel it a hardship.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Did you pay fees when your cattle were grazing before?

A.—Only one year, the fees were collected and never afterwards were they collected from us. Rupees 75 was collected for the village as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there tanks?

A.—Yes. There are no water-sources. They were washed away in 1923. Those which were washed away have not yet been reconstructed. There are no river-canals. The lands depend on rains. We have submitted petitions to the Estate Collector, the



Revenue Officer and the District Collector. No action has been taken on them. We have submitted a petition in respect of waste lands, stating the fact of our having applied for assignment of the same.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—To whom have you submitted it?

A.—To the contractor.

Q.—Has assignment (of the lands) been made on payment of money?

A.—Assignment has been made, a najarana of Rs. 575 and a rate of Rs. 2 per acre having been charged.

Q.—Why have you not been given?

A.—I was asked to "get out" even by bigwigs.

Questioned by Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., the witness said : In our village the cattle, cows and cow-buffaloes are one thousand in number, and there are 180 pairs of bullocks.

Witness No. 30.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Korada Suri Nayudu, son of Rama Nayudu, aged 60 years, agriculture, residing at Korada, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I do not know the area of the land. I have a patta (land) of Rs. 200 irrigated by zamindari tanks for which there are no water sources. The wet rate is Rs. 12 to Rs. 13, while the dry rate is up to Rs. 6.

Q.—How much can you pay for wet land?

A.—A charge of Rs. 5 would suffice. For our village there are rates from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5.

Q.—Is your land good?

A.—My lands are subject to the loss of crops. The yield per acre is below one cart-load. I do not know about the yield of other lands. Those too give the same yield.

Q.—What is the distance between your land and that land?

A.—The distance is four or five furlongs.

Q.—Is there difference between your crop and their crop? Does the water of one and the same tank irrigate the lands paying a rate of Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 and those paying a rate of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12?

A.—Yes. After the advent of the Courts of Wards, we represented the matter to them. There is no reply. We have put in petitions. The tank was repaired last year. They said they would complete the repairs this year. There is no canal to lands bearing the rate of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12. We are at the end. They would not allow us water. They have enhanced the rent by two annas per rupee. I do not know why they have done so.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You are paying a rent of Rs. 200. Are you paying Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per acre?

A.—Yes, Sir. I do not know the extent.

Q.—Is there no other land under the tank, the rent of which is Rs. 10 to Rs. 12?

A.—There are lands of other ryots, in respect of which a rent of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 is paid.

Witness No. 31.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Matta Narayanaswami, son of Gurayya, agriculture, residing at Pulli (Purchi, Bobbili taluk.)

Q.—Did you put in any petition to the Board of Revenue?

A.—We have petitioned offering 14 and requesting that survey may be effected. We require survey.

Q.—What is the rate for your land?

A.—Rupees 61-11-4 per garce. On the whole they are collecting Rs. 66-4-0. Rents are high. Survey may be effected and remissions may be granted in respect of our lands which should be treated equally with Government lands. The rate applicable to Palakonda taluk ranges from Rs. 8 to Rs. 14. One acre there would be equivalent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of our "garce" land. No other zamindaris or estates are situated near to us. In



“Needavalasa,” they are collecting a rate of “Rs. 7 to Rs. 10.” We have no tanks at all. There is a river canal called “Sayanabatti.” No repairs are needed.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much land is there in your village?

A.—There are 14 acres of land. We are cultivating it ourselves jointly.

Q.—What would be the prices of your lands?

A.—Nobody is buying (them) now. The Bobbili Estate authorities are only leasing them out for rent. They have charged a high rent (for them) and nobody would buy them.

Q.—You have said that the rate in Government villages would be from Rs. 8 to Rs. 14. But have you not said that there is only a single-crop there?

A.—For land yielding two crops the rent is Rs. 14. There would be serious deficiency of water for two crops in our village. It would be well, if there is rainfall.

Witness No. 32.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Boyina Appalaswami, son of Muthyalu, aged 35 years, agriculture and trade, residing at Saravakota, Parlakimidi.

Questioned by the Chairman as to what he had to say, the witness stated as follows: During 1802–1803, the ryots of Parlakimidi Estate used to pay (the Estate) a portion of the produce raised. They (the Estate authorities) afterwards gave “mustazaris.” Later on those lands were given for “rayani lease.” Mr. Russel wanted to effect Settlement. Block survey was effected and taram rates were levied. Number of the land, the tank-source, the taram rate, the block number and the area, all these were given villagewar under post patta. While fixing the assessment, they (the Estate authorities) have provided for its payment in four or six instalments. As the lease amount was agreed upon to be paid, it was laid down that all the crops should be grown. Post patta was granted subject to the condition that the assessment be paid in the instalments fixed and repairs to tanks be done, provided their cost was less than Rs. 20. The names of the ryots and the name of Naidu are found. I am filing the patta. There are no conditions in respect of the second crop. They gave (the pattas) from 1868. They gave them until fasli 1307. Mr. Mas [Mac(?)] and others when they came for my vote, made endeavours for individual survey. They promised individual pattas and granted them. They said that as our land was not surveyed, it would be surveyed and excess area, if any, would be given on patta. The rates were not mentioned therein. Those were given in fasli 1307. Mr. Sarma, the Diwan, had effected the survey and granted the pattas. The Estate Land Act came into force. They (the estate authorities) ordered that the Government rate would be charged in the event of water being taken for the second-crop and that water should not be taken without their permission. Repairs to tanks are not effected. The “axe” has been replaced by the screw-gearing shutters. They said that the locks would be opened whenever we might find it necessary. They said that it would be better to keep them under our control and we agreed. The condition is that the Government rates should not be exceeded and the water-rate should not exceed the Government rate. After the Raja assumed the administration, Mr. Gorasingh Patnaik, the Diwan, granted pattas promising that our wishes would be carried out. Afterwards, Mr. Sarma succeeded him. Saying that this was difficult and offering to grant us pattas at Government rates, he sent for us and levied slightly enhanced rates. We did not agree to this. Later on, they granted us in darkhast form as Gorasingh Patnaik had done. In 1926, we took water for ragi crop. They then filed a criminal case (against us). The Magistrate held the case to be of a civil nature and dismissed it. The suit is now pending in the High Court. A suit for injunction was filed against me in the civil court. Ours was a criminal case for having taken water from the Batti (canal). That case was over. Injunction was not granted in the civil court and it was held that the ryot was entitled to take water. They (the Estate) were refused the relief sought for. It was decreed that the parties should bear their costs. Considering all the issues, the Judge held that there was no monopoly [for the Estate(?)]. (Produces judgment copies.) In spite of our innumerable petitions, they have not given us water. We were denied water-supply after the Munsif had given his decision. We have petitioned the Sub-Collector. He had arranged a compromise. I pray that the Raja may be summoned. I am filing the judgment. His signature is found after the words “I accept the above conditions.” After the agreement was over, the Tahsildar sent a copy of it. The agreement was written according to the conditions. There is a copy of it.



On paying the deposit amount, on paying one-half of the sum, the supply of water was given. I am filing it. According to the conditions of the agreement, the Superintendent transferred it to the Collector. It will be in force for one year for the year 1938.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What are the present water-rates?

A.—There are first rate and second rate water-sources. It is said that the Raja would not forfeit his rights by not collecting (rates for) ragi, gingelly (crops), Re. 1-0-0, 11. The High Court confirmed the judgment of the (District) Judge's Court. I shall file the judgment. Since 1916, the matter has been under dispute in regard to the reduction of rates under class 1 source. The water-rate question dragged on from 1927 to 1937. A single-rate has been decided. The Raja has appealed. The Collector has confirmed the rate. I am filing the typed copy.

Q.—What is it you want in regard to this water question?

A.—We shall pay the rates according to the wishes of the Board of Revenue. We should have water-supply whenever we want it. The money order was received and an endorsement given. The present Diwan, too, has given similar endorsement. We submit that the Raja has not been giving us water-supply since 1898. The ryots themselves used to arrange for their water-supply through panchayats. In 1896, the ryots agreed to a panchayat (agreement) among themselves (about water). In 1905 they wrote the panchayat-nama decision. We gave a telegram in 1937 describing the state of affairs and requesting water-supply for gingelly crop. (Produces copy of telegram receipt.) We have also presented a petition to the Collector in person. The Special First-Class Magistrate held an enquiry into it. The Collector inspected the place and said that water might be given, there being plenty of water in the tank. We petitioned the Board of Revenue also. They said they had taken up the suit under section 56. They directed the formation of Ryots' Panchayats, and wanted these to look after the water-supply. The security case against me commenced from the time the High Court decision was given. We had petitioned the Collector. Mr. Westlake did not agree. He drafted a compromise. The Raja did not agree to that (compromise). We had petitioned the Superintendent as well. In the year 1934, a charge-sheet was filed. It was then that I subscribed to the Andhra-Oriya problem(?). It was one mistake. We convened a meeting in our village and sent a telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy. This was another mistake. We convened a meeting regarding Mr. Gidugu Ramamoorthi Pantulu. This was the third mistake. We refused to attend the Darbar. This was also a mistake. A large number of forest cases was instituted against the people of our village in this connexion. They launched C.C. No. 921 of 1934 and many more cases. There is one by name Reddi Appalaswamy. He was convicted for having assaulted a forest guard. He himself was again appointed as a forest guard. Later on when Mr. Sitapati came, a case was launched against my men alleging that they had stolen bamboos. The Estate authorities made no provision for troughs in tanks or canals. No repairs have been effected for the last thirty years. They have granted pattas in respect of tank-beds. Suits, etc., are over. We have now applied for settlement to be effected. They (ryots) left the village, having sold their lands. The request for an interview which we have sought for with a view to personally representing to the Raja our view-points about the rent which we have been paying for the last seventy years, has been refused and no time for it was granted. We have been paying rent for the last seventy years. It is unfair that settlement should be effected once again. They have written saying that they have fixed the Government rate, that the prices are low and that there is no tiled-house in the taluk. The interpretation of the Settlement section is varied. There is no meaning for the words "fair and equitable rate." In 1924, we applied direct to the Raja by registered post. We had represented all the points. Those rates were not accepted.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have 32 acres. Twenty-two acres thereof is wet.

Q.—Do you cultivate it yourself?

A.—I personally cultivate a portion. We gave the rest, 15 acres of dry and wet land (on lease) to ryots. There is no stipulation as per the amount, the ryot should pay on each holding. We pay Rs. 100. One ryot pays Rs. 50. Another pays Rs. 25. The margin between the peshkash which the zamindar pays and the quota which he collects from the ryots does not exist as between the tenant and the under-tenant.

Q.—How much did the ryot give you this year?

A.—On the average, the yield from wet lands is 4 puttis and the price is Rs. 9. It has not yet been collected. We pay Rs. 3 per acre of that land to the zamindar.

Q.—Do you hold a post in the Estate?

A.—No.



Q.—What is the price per acre of wet land in your village?

A.—Rupees 3 to Rs. 4 hundreds for wet.

Q.—Did you purchase any lands within these ten years?

A.—I purchased. All around there are my lands. In the middle there is his land. I bought 33 cents for Rs. 500.

Q.—Did you purchase anything else?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you construct big houses?

A.—Debts are accumulating on all the houses.

Q.—The full Board levied Rs. 9-10-0 per acre. Is it unfair?

A.—It is indeed unjust. The adjoining Government land does not bear more than Rs. 6-8-0. If there were to be a river canal in Government villages, two crops can be raised.

Q.—Are two crops raised in your village?

A.—If water-supply is given, two crops can be had in all the lands. If this rate of Rs. 9-10-0 is to be retained, rent cannot be paid unless there is yield from the land. We have no drinking-water facilities. That tank is being leased out for fishing. When there is water in the "donated tank," it would be leased out for fishing. There is no water for drinking purposes. The Diwan has issued an endorsement to the effect that the water available should be let off and that he would then consider about water-supply. He said that he would launch prosecutions if chillies are grown in fields subject to the tender of roots(?). Our prayer is that because it is 135 years since the Permanent Settlement had taken place, the rates should be fixed through the agency of Revenue Panchayats.

Witness No. 33.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dasupuram Jaggadu, son of Perumallu, living on the hill, agriculturist, residing at Koduru, Parlakimedi estate.

Questioned by the Chairman, as to what he had to say, he stated: The whole of the hill range has been included in forest reserve. There is no customary caste occupation. There had been no reserve forest before. We used to do as we pleased. Now we are not allowed to enter into it. We have no customary caste occupation. We cultivate land on the hill. Now we are not allowed to do it. There is one acre of the hill land held by the elders. We grow red-gram and other grains (like "gadara") therein. There are six members in my house. I have three children. If the youngsters go to the forest and fetch faggots of fuel, I go the next day to sell them for 3 annas and pay 1 anna 6 pies for the permit. Your honour may be pleased to consider what would be left to us. We have no food to eat nor "kanji" to drink. It is three days since we had started from our places. We have come on foot. Our village is near Pathapatnam. The distance is not known. We live at the foot of the hill. Your honour may be pleased to provide us with food.

Q.—What do you mean by providing food?

A.—We want to pursue our customary caste occupation. We eke our livelihood by cultivation.

Q.—How is 1 anna 6 pies levy for 3 annas worth of fuel felt? Will it satisfy you if there be no levy?

A.—That is not enough. If we fail to offer our "vettis" (free services), we are prohibited from going to the hill. We go for "vetti" to the Maharaja for bundling up fodder, weeding, etc. We get 2 pies and one "thavva" (a measure commonly used) of rice for weeding and the same wages for harvesting and nothing more.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Are you employed on road-work? What are you paid?

A.—We get nothing for "vetti work" done under the forest authorities. We are paid only for weeding and harvesting. We get nothing for hewing wood and road-work.

Q.—Do you undertake "podu" cultivation?

A.—Yes. If we go to the fair we have to pay 4 annas per shoulder-load to the lessee. We are giving tamarind and mangoes to the lessees. Cattle are not allowed to graze unless money is paid.



Q.—What about “ podu crop?”

A.—We grow red-gram, etc.

Q.—How much “ podu ” produce do you raise?

A.—Chama, gante and red-gram all are included therein.

Q.—What is the objection for “ podu ” cultivation?

A.—They convert areas into forest reserve and do not allow “ podu ” cultivation therein. The moment “ kaku ” plant is raised, a rent of one anna is charged.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How many “ Savaras ” are there in your village?

A.—There are 200 of them.

Q.—Have all of them “ podu?”

A.—None of them have it.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—How many of your “ podu ” villages are there in the reserve forest?

A.—There are Gopalapuram, Andhavaram, Rompi, Pogadelli, Sudarada, Bhaganthra, etc., villages, 16 in all.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is not “ podu ” done during the past 15 years?

A.—No, please.

Q.—How do you eke out your livelihood?

A.—We eke out our livelihood by manual labour.

Q.—Will they not allow “ podu ” within reserve forest?

A.—There is no objection, if it is not in the reserve.

Q.—Is there no unreserved forest?

A.—We have no unreserved forest. We have absolutely no unreserved forest.

Witness No. 34.

Vizagapatam.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Lanka Sanjiva Rao, son of Ramayya, aged 40 years, landlord, residing at Kasimkota, Kasimkota estate.

Questioned by the Chairman as what he has to say, he stated : Although the survey of Kasimkota Estate was over, settlement has not yet been effected. On this account, the rates are very high. The wet rate is Rs. 75. No repairs have been made to irrigation works. The tanks have silted up. The approaches of rivers are silted up. There have been no repairs. Canals have no bunds. Due to long neglect, the lands have been spoiled since 1923. The repairs have not been made for one year. In 34 villages of the Estate, the yield has been reduced by one-half and they have not paid rents. The bunds are in breaches in the case of certain tanks and the rest have no repairs done to them. Much loss is resulting on account of repairs of river bunds and channels having been neglected.

Q.—Are there other estates by the side of your estate?

A.—There is Chemudu (estate). The rates are very much higher than in that (estate). I do not know well. I have heard that the rates are higher than there.

Q.—Are there Government lands by the side of your house? What are the rates applicable to them?

A.—The wet rate is Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 and the dry rate, Re. 1.

Q.—Are those lands as productive as your lands?

A.—Yes. After survey was effected an excess in extent was found out. Hence the Settlement was given up. Formerly they (ryots) used to stealthily graze their goats, but it (the land) is now in the hands of the estate authorities. Permission has to be obtained for getting timber, etc., for the construction of houses. We should be entitled to the right over trees in estate lands, as in the case of Government lands. They (the estate authorities) have encroached on these rights even after the Estates Land Act(?) came into force. Cases have been launched against persons who felled down trees. Repairs are necessary in respect of tanks. Such work should be turned out during the regime of the Congress Cabinet. It is laid down in the Act that repairs to tanks should be effected. River bunds have to be repaired to protect the adjoining lands from being spoiled.



There is difference between the present rate and the paimash rate. They proposed to carry on survey and settlement operations but did not do so. For patta No. 55 the old rate (the year) 1862, is Rs. 23. The present rate is Rs. 33. In 1909 the rate for patta No. 30, which comprised 28 acres of dry land, amounted to Rs. 407-13-7 at Rs. 14 per acre. For wet lands the rate per acre is Rs. 28 and the rent for the year 1909 for 3 acres 7 cents was heavy. We do not know anything previous to that, as we have no records. Rupees 1,600 has been decreed for repairing the tanks in Bayyavaram. Annas 0-10-8 was reduced in the rupee. I made enquiries about the ryots of Kasimkota. Govindappa tank and Kunchula tank have silted up. Reduction was made in the high rates. I do not know what the rate was. There are 30 acres of land as private holding. This was under the ryots previous to 1903 as jirayati. Prior to the commencement of the Estates Land Act, special courts had to be constituted for the disposal of estate suits. It is unjust to sue the joint pattadars for the affairs of others. Joint pattas must be split up. Twelve years ago, I submitted a petition regarding jirayati patta No. 54. Nothing was done. A separate patta has not been granted (to me). It has not been incorporated in a joint patta. They (separate pattas) should be granted promptly. Steps should be taken to see that the estate authorities do not take away (demarcation) stones, when these are planted. In the case of patta-transfers, the mamul (usual tip) is eight annas. There should be no stamp duty for suits relating to damages. There should be summary courts.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness said: It is enough if we have the same rates as are applicable to the Government lands.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said: I do not have any wet land, but I have 12 acres of dry land in this estate. I do not cultivate the lands myself. I am working for the cause of ryots. I am the President of the Ryot's Association. I have a list of the tanks which are in need of repairs. I used to be the head clerk of Devidi estate. I have a mango tope of 10 acres in extent in a tank-bed. We have the custom of buying lands. The price (per acre) of wet land is Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. I do not know whether there is a higher price than that or not. They raise crops of paddy, small millet and the like. There is only one crop. Lands are leased out to under-tenants. For one acre of wet land the rate is Rs. 20, Rs. 25. There is no condition that grain should be given. The pattadar and the under-tenant, should share the produce half to half after deducting the expenses. Kists should be borne by the ryot exclusively. The old 'cowles' are not with me. Kists have been enhanced, after the Estates Land Act came into force.

Rates in 1902—Rs. 4-6-3; Rs. 23.

Rates at present—Rs. 5-3-10; Rs. 33.

Such pattas are not with me.

Patta 55, Kasimkota—

In 1862, Rs. 23.

At present Rs. 33-4-0.

Patta 7, Urlam—Rs. 81 has become Rs. 110.

(The Urlam memorandum was presented.)

Witness No. 35.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Malla Jagannadham, son of Appalaswami, aged 40 years,  
Somalingapalam village, Kasimkota estate.

I have land in Somalingapalem. It is all wet land and is scattered over four villages. The rate per acre is Rs. 10, Rs. 11. This rate is higher than that which prevails in the adjoining Government villages. There, they pay Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. When compared Taramwar, it (our rate) is higher by Rs. 4. The soil is the same. We do



not have good harvests, owing to the absence of water-facilities. I know about all the lands in the village. The highest rate goes up to Rs. 30. The dry and wet rates are Rs. 30 and Rs. 35 respectively.

	RS.	A.	P.
No. 3, patta—48 cents of paddy crop .. .. .	33	0	0
Kasimkota, 1.90 acres .. .. .	46	0	9
Do. No. 13, patta 13.33 acres .. .. .	29	0	4
4 and 9, pattas 0.61 a re } .. .. .	28	8	3
0.22 " }			
Bayyavaram, Patta I—1.52 acres—Past rent, was Rs. 40; present rent, Rs. 74—80.			
Survey No. 261, 5 when surveyed—77 cents.			
477, patta, 1—57.			
Bayyavaram No. 3, patta paimash, 32 acres 8—34; rent is Rs. 110—10—0.			
The rate is Rs. 13—8—0 found to be 22 acres less.			

The witness presented a memorandum. Before the promulgation of the Estates Land Act, pattas were granted by setting one ryot against the other. The same rates that prevailed at the time of passing the Estates Land Act, continue even now.

	RS.	A.	P.
Melupaka—			
Fasli 1271 .. .. .	415	2	5
„ 1309 .. .. .	375	11	0
„ 1315 .. .. .	668	12	0
Patta 39—			
Fasli 1269 .. .. .	5	8	0
„ 1291 .. .. .	7	12	0
Patta 69—			
Fasli 1209 .. .. .	4	0	0 and add
	14	0	0 and odd
Patta 19—			
Fasli 1284 .. .. .	77	11	0
„ 1308 .. .. .	114	11	4
Gobburu—			
Patta 1—			
Fasli 1269 .. .. .	136	8	0
„ 1342 .. .. .	259	10	0

(Statement about encroachments of tank-beds has been filed.) Narasingasagaram tank is 24 acres in extent. About twenty years ago, the rent was Rs. 51—6—9 due from Amerapu Pedam Jogulu and others. One acre and sixty-five cents used to be under Vedula Appa Rao, the rate being Rs. 4—15—0. This was nearly twenty years ago. Bayyavaram Pedda cheruvu 3—21 patta to Poosala Ramachendrudu for Rs. 12—12—9. Mothi Ravi tank, 3 acres in extent was fully given to Chidireddi Audinarayana and another. The lands under these tanks are being cultivated. These can be known on a perusal of the village plans. There are encroachments of communal lands also. Bayyavaram had 135 acres of grazing land. Now there is nothing.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: In old accounts, it was shown as grazing land. This can be ascertained from the Manager. It can be found in the 'A' Register.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said: My land is in the ayacut under Chinna Cheruvu.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: There is six acres of wet land in the ayacut. It (water?) comes from the ayacut of Pedda Cheruvu. One hundred and thirty acres of grazing land exists at only one place. It can be seen in the accounts. I do not know. I do not belong to that village. There is grazing land in Government villages.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: The cost of cultivating paddy in wet land is Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 and the income in the event of crops being good is Rs. 40. The profit is Rs. 10. The rent is Rs. 15 to Rs. 11. Nothing would be left. There would be no loss if proper repairs are effected. Generally, a single crop can be raised. We would have wells dug and cultivate sugarcane when there is water. I have none in my land. I cultivate in my land paddy or 1 acre of sugarcane. There are no other



crops. Even seeds for the paddy crop could not be had. Rents were not increased, after the advent of the Estates Land Act. The prices are low at present. I am ignorant of the prices which prevailed in the past. Water is obtained from the Narsapur dam. Repairs have not been carried out for the past eight years. Consisting as it does of loose stones, the dam wears out every year. The sluice is small.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said : When any dispute arises among ryots regarding water distribution the estate authorities interfere. They are relatives of the zamindars. The river bund is not in a good condition. It was repaired by the Court of Wards in 1899 or 1900. Nothing was done until 1928 and we submitted a petition to the Collector. Minor repairs are being done by the estate authorities. Survey and settlement operations should be carried out. Inams have been resumed and pattas granted (in respect of them). Remissions are not granted. One-fourth of the estate has silted up with sand. The bund should be repaired. A reduction of Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 was made in the case of persons who filed suits. The suit filed by the ryots of Kasinkota and Melupaka (by Barupuru Appalaswamy) is in appeal now. Joint pattas should be cancelled. Our expenses are high and there are no accounts. We, ryots, are constructing sluices out of subscriptions. The tax rates are fixed on the basis of estimates. The suit was decided in our favour. The ryot should have the right over communal lands. He must have the right to graze cattle and to collect timber, green manure, etc., in the estate forests. The charge now for a cow is 8 annas, for a goat 2 annas and for a cartload of fuel 8 annas. This should be advantageous to the ryot. He should have the right over the trees. Collections are now made from the month of August when the ryot has no yield on hand. It would be better, if collections are made either from February or March. The Government should carry out repairs through the Public Works Department. (The witness presented a petition showing that the ryot should share with the Raja the cost of repairs.)

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said : The land that we cultivate is sandy. The land per patta comprises both good soil and sandy soil. A remission of 2 annas and 3 annas per acre is being granted. The rents are Rs. 10, Rs. 12, and Rs. 15. All of us, ryots, jointly pay money to the estate for carrying out repairs. This is not a rule. No thorough repairs are done to river canals. Though repairs are done to certain canals, they are of no good.

(Filed a list.)

Witness No. 36.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pangi Ramanna, son of Ammanna, aged 30 years, Ilagada Mutta, Darlapalli, Madgole estate.

Now, the mutta is in the Gayapuram estate. The muttadar extacts vetti services (unpaid labour). Rents are high. Wages are not paid for ploughing, transplantation, weeding, thrashing and harvesting. They (the estate authorities) beat us. We are made to carry 'bangy' (Kavadi) for nothing. We are paid something at the end. We have neither food nor wages. There is a hill. The forester arrests us if we carry on 'podu' cultivation. We cultivate sarasavabo, orisalu, konda kanthudu, ragi and samalu. The forester charges Rs. 10, Rs. 5 according to the quality of the tree. The old rates of rent were Rs. 10, Rs. 5. Now they are Rs. 25, Rs. 30, Rs. 40. This must be paid to our muttadar. There are forest duties. I have not sold wood. Nothing definitely is fixed for a plough. A forest is being maintained for the last two years. Suits are pending against us. Rupees 12 is the charge for one pair of bullocks. Rupees 5-10-0 is the charge for us. A suit is pending against a boy in Chintapalli. I have not seen (him). Onions are grown by coolies.

Witness No. 37.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mandi Guruvulu, son of Lachumudu, Darelu, Madgole estate.

I carry on cultivation near the hill. I have not cut the forest. I do unpaid labour to the muttadar and also pay rent to him. Ploughing and all other work should be done. The work in the muttadar's own land should be done first and our own work



should be done afterwards. The rent for 'Yeru' is Rs. 5-10-0. I own one 'Yeru,' i.e., two oxen. Onions are not cultivated. I have got a field from the muttadar for grain. I have two fields of dry land. The bullocks are my own. He distributes. All the ryots should work. There are 150, 200 villages in our Mutta. Moolakota is near our village. They pay a rent of Rs. 2. The same is the case with our taluk.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: The peon has to be given batta. The ryot has to render service without any remuneration. The muttadar has two peons and they should be provided with one fowl and Rs. 2 whenever they come. If not, they would beat us.

Witness No. 38.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of **Mr. Somareddi Latchumudu**, son of **Buttedu**, aged 40 years, **Seekuchinta Mutta, Ingadapalli, Chinnadapalli**.

Our village consists of five houses. The rent is Rs. 60. There are five ploughs. Others receive Rs. 2, Rs. 10, Rs. 12. Our muttadar, Chittapadal, says that this is the land of your Achchigadu. We are not being cared for, though we do unpaid labour. He has nodded his head on seeing me the other day at the ghat saying, 'Are you going to Achchi?' This is well-known to you. There is no cultivation of onions. We cultivate paddy and oriselu. We sell our cattle or house to pay rent, when crops fail.

Witness No. 39.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of **Mr. Onthalapuri Sreethi**, son of **Buddanna**, **Maliputti, Madgole estate**.

We cultivate garlic and fenugreek. We are of the mala caste. One half belongs to us and the other half to muttadar (Chittapadal). We have to do work in his field. Rupees 60 is paid for my father's land. Rupees 34 has to be paid for my village (three houses). Besides this, Rs. 60 is paid for my land. Papers (receipts) are issued. I pay the amount due by selling all things.

Witness No. 40.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of **Mr. Sidagam Gaddi Nayudu**, son of **Sanyasi**, **Dibbadapalem, Bimlipatam taluk, Vizianagram estate**.

We used to have ayacut. It has not been formed now. We were asked to pay the dry rate of Rs. 9 per acre and the wet rate at Rs. 12 per acre. This happened nearly twenty years ago. A bund is required for the stream. The dry rate is high. Crops perish on account of excessive rains. There are no roads fit for the passage of vehicles to our village; nor is there any well or tank in the village for the supply of drinking water. To get drinking water, we have to go to a distance of four or five furlongs or one mile. Decrees have been obtained. Three cowles have been fixed for Rs. 500, Rs. 600. I pay Rs. 50 per annum. I do not know what arrears are due from me. Arrears have accumulated in the case of wet lands ever since the bund of the stream fell into disrepair.

Witness No. 41.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of **Mr. B. Jeevaratnam**, son of **Jogi Nayudu**, aged 40 years, **Komanapalli, Pathapatnam taluk**.

As the rents are high, much hardship is being felt. Rents are not low here. They are low when compared to other zamindaris. They are not less than the Government rates. In the first place, the rate is high. We do not have the water-sources which exist in Government taluks. I am not going to speak about the rates. We experience hardship as regards collection of rents and joint pattas. Those who are in their (the estate authorities') good books, experience, no trouble. Survey was started nearly nine or ten years back.



It has not yet been completed. Leaving out the Government Nayillu' they have appointed 'One Revenue Nayillu.' They are having false accounts prepared regarding the second-crop cultivation. We are being dragged to (Law) Court on the plea that we are joint pattadars. It would be better, if the Government themselves collect the rents or entrust the work to village panchayats. Estate clerks should not be entrusted with this work. The Forest department came into existence, 20 or 25 years ago. We used to get timber, green manure, fruit, agricultural implements, leaves from forests previous to this. Forest rules were framed and we were given notices 20 years ago. (Presented copy of rules.) It is stated therein that we can get the abovementioned things from unreserved forests. The twenty-three castes mentioned in it are to be found nowhere. There are reserved forests adjacent to villages and the unreserved ones are far away. This reservation was done in 1914 by the estate authorities themselves. There are estate rangers and foresters. Tokens were granted. They were however refused on the ground that the free quota of grass was not given. Otherwise Rs. 1-8-0 for every cart was demanded. The forest authorities are creating much trouble. If the second crop is not given to the Forest officer, he exercises his authority. The same thing happens if we don't give our votes. This is unjust. Either the village panchayat or the Government should be entrusted with this (collection of rents?). Water-sources are badly in need of repairs. There are two streams and we derive no benefit from the Vamsadhara. It is useful for the adjoining Government villages. They will have repairs done for those who are in their good books. They won't do them if help is not rendered to them during taluk board and assembly elections. The same rates apply, to villages on the western side. (Repairs) were effected to one Sagaram. It is only half repaired. A rate of Rs. 10 has been levied. The Government should take them (Irrigation works) over completely without enhancing the rates.

In fasli 1325, second crop rates were introduced. There was only one rate previous to that time. We can have good crops, if there is rain in November and December. We took them for individualwar pattas but were ignorant of the second crop. I do not know whether I have affixed my signature or not. It was done cleverly. I kept quiet until 1930. Then they began to collect the second crop rate. 'Devan rate' took the place of 'Government rate.' In some places, it was Rs. 4, Rs. 5. Then it was enhanced. They would not enhance it, if we resort to courts. The second-crop rate should be cancelled, as it is higher than the first crop rate. They levy Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. Even if water is raised by means of a trough a remission of Re. 1-4-0 is granted. The rate for green gram and sesamum is (Rs. 1-8-0) for ragi Rs. 3. Though the Courts prohibit the levy of rates higher than Government rates they (the estate authorities) are collecting higher rates from fasli 1340.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: I have 50 acres of wet land and 10 acres of dry land in Komanapalli. I cultivate the wet land by engaging hired labour. I am not employed in the estate. I used to collect (rents) on behalf of the estate. I brought to the notice of estate authorities the matter of repairs. I did this until 1932. The estate authorities removed me from service. I don't know whether there is Government sanction for reserve forests. In fasli 1325, pattas were granted for second crop. I don't remember whether or not muchilikas were granted. The zamindar is collecting high rents in spite of (court) decrees. Boyina Appalaswami has filed a suit in respect of this matter. In our village, the price of land is Rs. 150 to Rs. 300. I have never purchased land. I have been contracting debts. I have not paid the rents for faslis 1346 and 1347. The charge for the second crop is in arrear. I cannot say the amount. Sugarcane is cultivated in dry lands by the side of the river. Water is required for this crop now and then for ten months. Suits regarding the second crop are pending in the High Court and the District Court. These have been filed by the zamindar.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said: I am the President of the Ryots' Association and B. Appalaswami is the Secretary. I was removed from service (estate) at the time of elections to the taluk board.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said: Ryots have to distribute water among themselves. The zamindar interferes whenever disputes arise. The estate authorities would not be present when water is being distributed.

Replying Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said: There is loss to our crops, as the reserved forest is situated near our lands. It should be at a distance. We have the reserved forest near our lands and unreserved forest far away.



Replying to the questions put by the Mirzapuram zamindar he said: I have been the President of the Ryots' Association for nearly two years. In 1933-35, three or four years ago from now, I was removed from (Estate) office in 1933. I was removed in 1932, when the taluk board elections and the president's election were held.

Witness No. 42.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Paidi Kurmadas Nayudu, son of Narasu Nayudu, Kintali, Chipurupalli taluk, Siripuram estate.**

I am a ryot. I hold a patta for Rs. 400 for the whole family. The total extent of land may not exceed 2 acres. The wet rate for a garse (3 acres and 66 cents) + land-cess + education-cess is Rs. 5. Rupees 39 has been decided by the Collector in a commutation suit. He asked me to have the land surveyed. We have accepted the extent of the land as being 3 acres. The District Court has fixed the rent as Rs. 66. In the High Court, the rents were found to be high. Paragraph 19 (of the judgment of the High Court) says how the land was obtained.

Paragraphs 20-27 discuss the general condition of the village.

Paragraph 34 deals with the enhancement of rents.

Paragraphs 37-38 conditions on which lands were given to the zamindars.

Paragraphs 43-44 paishkash.

Paragraph 46 points of contrast between the zamindar and the ryot.

Paragraph 60 rates of the estate lands and rates of other adjoining zamindari lands.

Paragraph 45 the Rellugedda tragedy.

High rents are charged for small extents of land. Repairs are not done to tanks. Water of the Tayanni stream is under the control of Bobbili estate, and the latter do not give it. They do not make any repairs to Vandarala top portion.

The tank-bed has been leased out. The southern side of Somanna tank has been declared an unoccupied waste land. It is being cultivated. Lands under its ayacut are cultivated. Water-supply is inadequate. Dry lands are capable of yielding good crops. Nothing has been done in response to the representations made about encroachments in Satyapuralu. We are paying rents for lands which are included in Golakonda. Soori Ayyanna, Pedaramanna and Soori Narasimha Appadu are paying (rents for such lands). No exemption has been made in our case. Owing to the Rellugedda floods, the lands in Boddapalli and Modalavalasa have silted up. These have been repaired by ryots. Remission has not been granted (in respect of those lands). Lease-deeds are being executed in respect of ryots' communal lands. There used to be ten acres of grazing land. It exists no longer now.

Answering the Raja Sahib, he said: I cannot say how many acres but a portion (of the tank) has silted up. Some part of the tank and some part of Nagavalli canal have silted up. It (the canal-water) does not come to the tank. Pattas were granted for communal lands five or six years ago. There is a separate lease-deed for each patta. Protests were of no avail. We have not petitioned the Collector. I do not know the current prices (of land) in my village. Arrears of rent may amount to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. I have not purchased land. I myself cultivate my land. Leasing out that land is unknown to me. Cash-rents are substituted for grain-rents. My village has not been surveyed. I do not know how many acres of land it has. Apportionment (of lands) was made and the rent as per 'garse' of so many acres was fixed.

Witness No. 43.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Gollapalli Pottiah, son of Appiah, aged 60 years, cultivator, Waltair, Siripuram estate.**

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What have you got to say?

A.—Our estate originally belonged to the Bobbili Royal house.

Q.—How long ago?

A.—From a long time since Seetayamma Garu bought it from the Bobbili estate and she gave it to her daughters.



Q.—When was it given to Seetayamma Garu?

A.—Eighty years ago.

At that time, the lands in the estate got water-supply from two canals. Water-supply was withheld from this place when the village was given to her. Crops fail now as there is no water-supply from Vankalambatti. There would not be any loss of crops, if there is to be water-supply again from the two canals. Two crops were being raised when lands got water-supply from the two canals. Ragi and paddy used to be cultivated. Owing to inadequate water-supply, these crops are not now cultivated. Collection of rent is made from July.

Q.—Is there difference in rent?

A.—Formerly it was cash-rent. Grain-rent was charged after the village passed into the hands of Seetayamma Garu.

Q.—When was the cash-rent being received?

A.—Before I came of age to understand things.

Q.—Afterwards?

A.—Grain-rent was charged from the time the estate passed into the hands of Bobbili royal house. The cash-payments which had prevailed at the time were not reduced.

Q.—You said that Seetayamma Garu got the estate from Bobbili estate. Did the system of grain-rent prevail at the time when the estate was given away by the Bobbili zamindari to Seetayamma Garu?

A.—Bobbili zamindari introduced the grain-rent system and gave the estate to Seetayamma Garu. Both the cash and the grain-rent systems existed. Forty years ago, they charged 45 garses of paddy for our village as a whole previous to that time, 44 garses used to be collected. It was enhanced to 45 garses, forty years ago. Then we filed a suit for commutation of the grain-rent (into cash-rent). In 1918 the Collector gave us a decision fixing the rent at Rs. 36.

Q.—What you have been saying so far is on record. That is not necessary. What do you want?

A.—Rent-collection is begun from July and that is the harvest season for us.

Q.—From what time do you want the rents to be collected?

A.—February or March would be better.

Q.—Would you not have again commenced cultivation by that time?

A.—The ryot would not be a loser, if it (rent-collection) is commenced at that time. He would incur loss, if collection is made during the month of July which is the harvest season. If rent-collection is made by the panchayats, we would not be put to loss.

Q.—Are there proper men available in your village to carry on a panchayat? Are there no parties?

A.—None. There are service inams in our village. Jirayati (lands) and our inams have the same ridge. There is Government jirayati (land) adjoining our lands. For one acre of Government jirayati land, the rate is Rs. 5 or Rs. 6. The rent for one acre of our land is Rs. 35. When the rate for Government lands does not exceed Rs. 11, we pay Rs. 35.

Q.—What are the Government rates?

A.—The Government rate varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 11. Then, provision should be made for payment of rent in instalments commencing from March.

Q.—Have they not already told about this?

A.—Tanks have not been repaired till now. If onions, etc., are cultivated with dirty water found near the batti (stream), a separate tax is being charged for it.

Q.—What is meant by 'batti'?

A.—It means a canal.

Q.—Who dig these canals?

A.—The zamindar himself digs the canals. We have to represent this matter, as we have to pay rents and incur losses. The extent of our lands is small.



Q.—Has not your estate been surveyed?

A.—The land which would not be 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres in extent has been settled as 3 acres. One or two pattas may cover  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, the rest being less than that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much land have you got?

A.—I do not know definitely. It is stated to be 3 acres in the patta. But I do not know it well.

Q.—What is the extent of wet land?

A.—I have some Merakapallam land under the tank.

Q.—What is meant by Merakapallam?

A.—It means land cultivated under the tanks.

Q.—Do you give the land to ryots on lease?

A.—It is quite insufficient for me. I cultivate it myself.

Q.—What is the price of land in your village?

A.—No body buys land, as the rents are high.

Q.—Did no one sell his land?

A.—I do not know whether anybody in the village has sold his land.

Q.—Did you sell land or did you purchase any new land?

A.—No, Sir, I am hardly able to secure my daily bread.

Q.—Do you pay rent in cash now?

A.—I pay cash being the value of Galla (grain-rent).

Witness No. 44.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Madupati Rama Chenlu Nayudu, son of Peda Appala Nayudu, aged 68 years, cultivator, Kondapalem Agraharam (Vizianagram estate mokhasa), Anakapalle taluk.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have 10 acres of dry land and 30 acres of wet land.

Q.—Who is your agraharamdar?

A.—Vedula Chanla Garu. It is a part of the Maharaja's estate. It is a Darimila inam. In 1908, the rent for the whole land was Rs. 1,978 for the whole inam lands. Now, it is Rs. 6,000.

Q.—What was the rent in 1926?

A.—The enhanced rent amounted to Rs. 6,918-2-0 by the year 1926. This is the daul amount. The rent has become heavy. It is Rs. 20 for an acre of dry land.

Q.—Do you not know how much it is now?

A.—Was it not 11 years ago? It was before the Estates Land Act came into force. It was enhanced subsequent to the passing of the Act. The same rate still continues. For one acre of dry land, it is Rs. 10 and for wet land, Rs. 30. Repairs are not carried out and crops fail.

Q.—What is the rent for the adjoining jirayati land?

A.—The rate for the adjoining Maharaja's jirayati dry land is from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 and for wet land, it is from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12.

Q.—Have you submitted a petition asking for repairs?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What has become of it?

A.—The Collector passed orders directing the estate authorities to carry out repairs. (He handed over the written order.) Repairs were not carried out in spite of his orders.

Q.—Do you say that repairs were not done in spite of the Collector's orders?

A.—Yes. They were not done.

Q.—Are there any suits pending against you?

A.—Yes.



Q.—Who has filed suits?

A.—Chenla Garu has filed four suits.

Suit No. 112 has been filed and the land has been auctioned because we submitted a petition to the Collector. They are putting us to troubles by not delivering possession of the land to us.

Q.—What do you say in the matter of rent?

A.—Our rent also should be reduced according to the Government rate.

Q.—Have you got anything more to say?

A.—No remission has been granted for the past sixty years in the event of failure of crops. Rent has been collected for the last sixty years even when crops fail.

Q.—Then do you ask for remission of rent?

A.—Remission should be granted through panchayat.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Which does give you more income—the wet or the dry land?

A.—Both are salt lands. There is no much profit.

Q.—What is the income per acre?

A.—I get five putties per acre of dry land.

Q.—What is the price of one putty?

A.—We cannot get more than 12 or 13 putties from wet land.

Q.—What crops do you cultivate in the dry land?

A.—Ragi alone.

Q.—What do you cultivate in the wet land?

A.—Paddy is cultivated.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—What were you paying for dry land in the past?

A.—We were paying Rs. 6, Rs. 7.

Q.—Have you written a muchilka when rent became heavy?

A.—Yes. I wrote muchilka. They used to make a demand for carrying out repairs.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do you cultivate sesamum?

A.—We cultivate a small quantity.

Q.—What is the average yield per acre?

A.—At the most two putties can be got.

Q.—How many bags make one putti?

A.—Twenty bags.

Q.—What is the present price of one kunsam?

A.—The present price of one Vizagapatam sealed kunsam is Rs. 3.

Q.—How many aghaharamdars are there?

A.—They (agaharamdars) have now made provision for ten shares.

Q.—You have stated that remission has not been granted for the past sixty years. Have you ever asked for it?

A.—Last year, we asked for it. But they (agaharamdars) refused it. Subsequently, they became divided. We are experiencing much difficulty in respect of wells.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the population of your village?

A.—It is six thousand for one village and in another village, it is eight thousand and odd. There is not even one well.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do aghaharamdars cultivate the soil?

A.—None of them do cultivation, but they are growing mango gardens. They grow mango gardens in waste lands.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Whose land is that?

A.—It belongs to the ryot.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How many acres of land have you?

A.—I have five acres.

Q.—Do you cultivate sesamum?

A.—They can be cultivated if there is rain.

Q.—Do you cultivate sugarcane?

A.—There is no water at all.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Has a ryot been removed from (his holding) in your aghaharam, and has that been given to others?

A.—Yes. It is Rs. 20 now as the result of such a transfer.



Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Are there tanks in your village? Are they kept in good repair?

A.—Repairs are not carried out and the tanks have silted up.

Q.—Should they not be repaired, if they have silted up?

A.—How can we carry out repairs, when we have no money?

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—For how long has Rs. 20 been paid?

A.—Since 1928.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Do waste lands still exist in the village?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the cattle allowed to graze there?

A.—It is there that the gardens are being planted.

Q.—Is not the harvest poor? What amount of remission do you get?

A.—No remission is granted at all.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What is the price of wet land in your village?

A.—It would be Rs. 300.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—How much do you spend for the cultivation of one acre of wet land?

A.—Rs. 25 per acre.

Q.—What income do you get out of one acre of wet land?

A.—Rs. 40 per acre.

Q.—What do you get on dry land?

A.—There is no income from dry land. The rent is heavy. What we get is not sufficient even to pay the Government kist. We pay kist by selling the cattle.

Q.—You said Rs. 20, what about expenditure?

A.—Expenditure is incurred on account of seeds, labour, manure, etc.

Q.—Do you keep an account? Please say it roughly.

A.—I do not remember. Our village has no public road. Chenlu Garu has not complied with our request (for a road).

Witness No. 45.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chukka Madam Nayudu, son of Simudu Nayudu, aged 29 years, cultivator, Gangada (Bobbili estate).

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What do you want to say?

A.—The Raja of Bobbili has got a half-share in the aghaharam. The rest belongs to the Allada family of Palakonda. A portion belongs to the family of Parvatipuram.

Q.—What are you driving at?

A.—A half-share is given.

Q.—Are you a ryot of Bobbili or of Palakonda?

A.—We are ryots of Bobbili.

Q.—How much rent has been allotted for that half?

A.—In 1810, it was Rs. 361-9-0. It has now been enhanced to Rs. 581-2-1. Tharamwar. It has been enhanced to Rs. 586 in the case of some lands and to Rs. 386 in the case of some other lands.

Q.—Why did they enhance it?

A.—Having frightened us saying that there are others who are prepared to pay more, they have enhanced rents. Subsequently they (the Palakonda Zamindars?) also have enhanced. The rent for that half also is Rs. 600 and odd.

Q.—What do you want to say now?

A.—We ask that it may be reduced.

Q.—What is the rate of wet land per acre?

A.—It was Rs. 720 for the entire village. It is now Rs. 1,200 and odd. It would be sufficient if the old rates are introduced. The rates were enhanced in the case of those who were somewhat prosperous.

Q.—When were they enhanced?

A.—Fasli 1133, Rs. 34 and odd.



Q.—What was the rate then?

A.—In 1343, it was Rs. 11. In 1344, Rs. 1-5-4 was added.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—I come from Gangada, which is in Bobbili taluk. Originally, in fasli 1283, the rent was Rs. 5,091-4-10; now, it is Rs. 5,311-13-5. In fasli 1300, it is Rs. 5,381-10-8; in fasli 1322, it was Rs. 5,390-4-4; in fasli 1345, it was Rs. 7,687-10-0.

Q.—Why was the record not given?

A.—The karnam did not give it. Land measuring 34 acres was reserved as darimila inam. The kattubadi per acre was Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. Inams were granted to us in 1346. It was made three thousand and odd altogether, on the plea that service inams were resumed. They (the resumed inams) were given to our Nayudu. There were 33 pattas. If Rs. 2 or Rs. 4 is paid, they used to debit it to kattubadi. They too have been taken away recently. They resumed lands covered by 31 pattas. The Maharaja has resumed them and given them to his men on kattubadi. Ryots were compelled under threats of excessive charges to execute lease deeds. The inams were converted into jirayati patta lands and were granted subject to the payment of kattubadi. Over and above the usual 7,000 dowl, 850 was added as extra, and jirayati pattas were granted. Full payment was made for fasli 1346 and we are going to pay for fasli 1347.

Q.—What is the present rate?

A.—Originally, it was 4 annas, when it was a darimila inam and the present rate as jirayati is Rs. 6 per acre.

Q.—Where is that land?

A.—It is in Gangada village itself. Pattas given after Estates Land Act are different from those given previous to that.

Q.—Furnish some pattas?

A.—(Gives some pattas). Each patta represents 12 acres, 5 cents; 1 garsai, 22 putties, 5 kunchams, Rs. 17-6-8 per acre of wet land.

Q.—What is the subsequent rate?

A.—(He shows a patta to the Chairman.) There are two more lands with a rate of Rs. 65 per acre. For the same pattas, in 1901, the rate was Rs. 26-14-0. In 1907, it was Rs. 28. For another patta in 1601, it was Rs. 45. In 1904 it was Rs. 48. In 1907 it was Rs. 48. In the case of this patta, my aunt is in occupation of the land on my own behalf. We pay Rs. 54 and odd. In February 1901 the rate was Rs. 54 and in 1907 it was Rs. 116-12-0.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the extent of land in each patta?

A.—It is 27 acres and odd in both. There are nearly eight or nine hills. The Government are granting pattas in respect of some of them. As regards others, the Estate authorities are indifferent. We are being troubled in the matter of votes. If the samuddar does not pay the mamul, the Diwan also keeps quiet. Suits were filed with regard to two pattas. We contended that inam lands were granted to us long ago. Their case was that we had encroached upon their private lands. We said that the lands were not their property but belonged to us. Then they submitted a memorandum saying that the suit need not be inquired into. The plaint was withdrawn. Thus we got the hills. The issue of hills fell within the scope of the suit. The plaint copy is with the Estate authorities.

Q.—Why is it not with you?

A.—Our ancestors did not care to possess a copy of it. We represented to the Government that the question of the hills also formed one of the issues raised by it (the suit). There is a boundary on the southern side of the hill called 'Voorakonda.' When we left the land fallow in the past as we were not able to cultivate it, they used to file suits claiming compensation for loss. The Estate authorities granted us some remission. When compensation was paid according to 16th November (?), they filed a suit after it was in their hands saying that we owed them Rs. 16 and odd. Then, we set up defence. Their case failed and they preferred an appeal. It was ordered that lands should be surveyed and rent fixed. After survey, the lands were found to be smaller in extent than the measurements given in the original patta. Thinking that this may affect their suit prejudicially, they asked us to retain Rs. 6 and odd. The rest we are paying. The present Diwan gave us a registered notice to the effect that we would no longer be allowed to retain that amount. Having given us notice that the concession would not be granted to us from fasli 1345, he filed a suit for refund of the amount from fasli 1343, but withdrew this point in the course of arguments. Therefore, the case has not been settled and No. 66 patta has been withdrawn.

Q.—Have you got the petition?

A.—I do not know why a copy has not been sent to us yet. Copy of the compromise deed was taken some time back. It has been ordered that the suit should be withdrawn.



Q.—What more have you to say?

A.—Proper repairs are not done to tanks. Rates prevailing in Palakonda are equitable and we wish that our lands may be assessed at those rates. There are no repairs to the tanks. The Diwan caused an inspection to be made about one canal. But no repairs were done to it. There is no patta nominally in accordance with the old custom. If we ask about it, no attention is paid. The Diwan has made an inspection personally. No orders have been passed even to the present day. Even the performance of odd services to the overseer has not mended matters. Rents are collected from us from the month of July. We therefore demand that rent may be collected in the same periods as is done by the Government. We wish that rent-collection should be entrusted to village panchayats. The trouble from the Estate authorities in this respect is, that they expect mamuls from us. If a quarter-anna in the rupee is not paid to the Zamindari Revenue Inspector, we are threatened that interest would be charged. Joint pattas are troublesome to us. We have been asking for separate pattas. There are no communal lands for the village at all. A tank has been leased out.

Q.—When was it?

A.—Diwan has inspected it this year. The ryot (who has taken the tank-bed land on lease) should not be asked to quit or relinquish the land.

Q.—By saying 'athukubadi,' to whom do you think it was so given?

A.—It was given to a man. He spoilt his case. We informed the authorities about the matter. But it was not refused. As he kept quiet, they began to give adjacent (lands) also for athukubadi.

Q.—In effect, 'athukubadi,' means not that a land was given by them (the Estate authorities) to a ryot but that latter has encroached upon it. Is it not?

A.—At first, patta was granted to one individual. We prevented him from cultivating the soil. But having purchased it from him, an influential man is now cultivating it.

Mr. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What is the service that should be rendered in return for the grant of the land?

A.—No particular kind of service has been stipulated. It is a Darimila inam.

Q.—You said that the land was granted in return for doing service. Who does the service?

A.—We never did service. Even elevated lands were given for athukubadi. They said that fresh pattas would be granted for them now.

Q.—Did this practice ever exist before?

A.—It existed prior to the year 1902.

Q.—How much land was there?

A.—Nearly 1,500 (acres of land). Three acres to 21 acres have been leased out. At that time, we executed these lease deeds. We reserved some grazing lands. They wanted pattas to be written in respect of them. They wrote (pattas) in respect of a portion of them. We were told that if we had any rights. We should establish them and that we should not trouble the zamindars. We have executed (lease-deeds) from 1922 to 1926. A rate of Rs. 2 was levied for grass. I executed (the lease-deed) in 1346. The rent for the land 6 acres and odd in extent was Rs. 13. I am paying Rs. 22 and odd for it now. They said that a petition was filed against me and asked me whether I would like to have the land assigned (to another person) or to execute the lease-deed. I was obliged to execute the deed on this account. I am paying nazarana for 1345.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—You say that it is a Darimila inam. Why was it granted?

A.—It was given under the heading Darimila inam.

Q.—Why was it given?

A.—It was granted to get assistance, when they came.

Q.—Do you know how many acres it is?

A.—It has not been surveyed.

Q.—How much money is to be spent per acre?

A.—For wet lands, it varies from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 and for dry lands from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. Though the land may be given in accordance with garse calculation, it would not be so much.

Q.—What is the expenditure incurred by you on one acre?

A.—It is Rs. 20 for wet land and the yield is 12 putties, the cash value of which is Rs. 32.

Q.—Have you got an account?

A.—We don't have accounts with us.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much of land have you?

A.—I have 20 acres.

Q.—Is it in your name as per patta?

A.—I have three or four pattas of my own. But we have purchased some lands. I have 22 acres of land as my own and the rent is Rs. 66. We purchased 8 acres and 6 cents. They were purchased in 1900.

Q.—Is there not an increase in the extent of land for the village on the whole?

A.—Why does the land increase? There has never been an increase of land. They have not surveyed the land. There is no more of land than what has been in actual existence. Other waste lands were separated. Eight hundred and odd rupees was realized from timber obtained in waste lands.

Q.—You said that it was 7,600 in fasli 1783. Does that include waste land?

A.—Yes, waste land is included in it.

Q.—Was not a service inam resumed by the estate as a result of intimidation?

A.—It was resumed in fasli 1346. It has not yet been received back. It is nearly 8,000.

Q.—Has the inam been surveyed?

A.—It has not been surveyed. It is as per their list alone. It has not been surveyed by the estate.

Q.—How did they levy the rate for it?

A.—Rs. 12-8-0 is the rate for wet land.

Q.—Is not that rate in vogue in your village?

A.—We do not know what rate was charged according to the acreage account in the past. They did not grant the land after measuring it.

Q.—Have not the Estate authorities enhanced the rate by 2 annas per acre through a court of law?

A.—The amount of annas two was levied even previous to that. They are taking 2 annas more. The enhancement was made previous to 1925.

Q.—Does not the estate get some income from hills?

A.—No money at all. The officers simply used to threaten the ryots and they have not taken anything.

Q.—Did they file forest cases?

A.—The 'Nayak' (forest guard?) and they (the estate) belong to one and the same party. On whom should they file suits?

Q.—Does each person use the forest as he likes or have they (the estate) got any right over rent?

A.—There are parties in our village.

Q.—You said that some land was given to the ryot, in the tank, when did they give it?

A.—Patta was given. At present, it is in the hands of the shroff. It is not being cultivated now. They have at once granted it to 'Nathavuru(?)'.

Q.—Has not the ryot encroached (on the land)?

A.—The ryot has not encroached on it. They have granted a patta.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Has a patta been given to the ryot?

A.—Yes. Then only we made encroachments.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have they taken evidence?

A.—No. Pattas were not given to those who had lands.

Q.—Do they not pay rent?

A.—No.

Q.—Have they ceased to pay rent for the last ten years? Has there been no cultivation of rent?

A.—No.

Q.—What is the price of wet land in your village?

A.—The price of dry land varies between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300 (per acre). I have brought 9 acres of wet-dry land for Rs. 1,950 cash from the Maharaja. The land is by 10 cents less than 9 acres.

Q.—Are you doing any other business?

A.—None.

Q.—You have said that you have purchased 8 acres of land. What is the rent for it?

A.—On the whole, it is 8 acres and 80 cents. The rent is Rs. 72.



Q.—Has the land been surveyed?

A.—It was the old Survey and not the present day Survey. We are paying quit-rent.

It has got mixed up with one of the accounts of Nari Naidu Valasa and Sri Rangarajapuram. The rent for them also may be found in it. They are intimidating us a little by saying that it may take two years to survey the land. If the Government levy a fair tax, we shall pay it. If you make some reduction and ask us to pay after effecting settlement operations, we are prepared to pay it.

Witness No. 46.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gorrela Ramaswami, son of Jathiah, aged 40 years, cultivator, Kadamama Agraharam.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What have you got to say?

A.—There was a stream-anicut for wet lands. It is not maintained properly. Wet rate is collected.

Q.—What is the wet-rate for one acre?

A.—Rent has not been fixed on the basis of acres. Each ryot got land bit by bit. Agreements were given in return for Rs. 50 as rent.

Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have that much of land whose rental value is Rs. 53.

Q.—How much of it is wet land?

A.—Some portion of it is wet and some portion is dry. The land which is capable of yielding one cart-ful of grain is wet.

Q.—How much rent do you pay on it?

A.—Lands have not been surveyed. The rent for both wet and dry lands is Rs. 53. The embankment of the stream which supplies water to wet lands, was washed away during the cyclone in the year 1923.

Q.—Has it not been repaired since then?

A.—It was first under the ownership of Buddhiraju family, when rent was collected according to average. It was bought by Kotcharlakota family for Rs. 10,000. They took agreements from us giving us assurance that they would construct the stream embankment. They have not done it up to the current year. The full rent was collected last year. There are no wet crops in the current year. When we represented to them that we could have no hope of economic redemption unless the water-rate is fixed for us, they served us with notices, saying that suits would be filed against us. Thereupon we also gave them notice asking them to provide us with a water-source. They are pressing us to pay money. They are insisting upon our relinquishing some portion of the land which they want to keep in their private possession. In that connexion, suits were filed before the Magistrate, against six or seven ryots amongst us. This is our representation to you about the water-rate.

Q.—You pay Rs. 53 on the whole. How much do you consider to be a fair levy?

A.—We desire that the water-rate may be fixed for us.

Q.—Do you think that the present rate is a fair one or do you want the rate to be reduced?

A.—I ask for reduction.

Q.—By how much do you want it to be reduced?

A.—The rate used to be Rs. 10 at first and it was enhanced to Rs. 13. I request that it may be reduced and a water-source provided for us.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—Winning over an influential ryot among us, they file suits against us with the object of giving our lands to him. We are being thus put to trouble. I have nothing more to say. We request that lands may be surveyed and a fair rent levied.

Q.—Is there forest in your village?

A.—There is no forest. There is a hill which belongs to the estate. Though cattle freely move about on it, we are not being charged.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—How long since have you been in possession of the land?

A.—This has been under our occupation since the time of my forefathers.



Q.—Has anybody removed the ryots from their holdings and given them to others?

A.—All the present ryots continue to hold the lands from time immemorial. Lands are not transferred.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—How many acres of land have you?

A.—I cannot say the extent in acres.

Q.—What is the yield per acre?

A.—One cartful of grain can be grown.

Q.—What expenditure do you incur in raising that crop?

A.—It comes to Rs. 20 for manuring and other expenses.

Q.—How many aghaharamdars are there?

A.—There is only one aghaharamdar.

Q.—How much do you pay for one acre? Is there Government jirayati?

A.—I do not know. There is Government jirayati but it has not been surveyed.

Q.—Does the aghaharamdar carry out repairs?

A.—He was doing it in the past.

Q.—How long since has he failed to do repairs? Does the ryot also contribute something for it or does the landlord himself bear the whole cost.

A.—The estate used to do it in the past. We used to simply attend to petty repairs while the landlord would carry out major repairs. We do only minor work and it is not obligatory on us to do such things.

Q.—You say that rents are high. Are you paying rents regularly or are you allowing them to fall into arrears?

A.—We have not defaulted so far. We have been paying. Last year's rents have not been paid.

Q.—Have suits been filed in respect of rents due last year?

A.—No.

Q.—Are they granting remissions? Are the rents reduced whenever crops fail?

A.—Rents are not reduced.

Q.—Have you asked for their reduction at the time?

A.—Last year we asked for it and submitted a petition but they have not made any reduction.

Q.—Do they cancel (arrears of rent)?

A.—No.

Witness No. 47.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Boddipu Kamiah, son of Chinniah, aged 50 years, cultivator, Arava Survepalli (Jalanthra taluk).

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Are you a ryot?

A.—I belong to a village in the Jalanthra estate. I have 16 acres of wet land.

Q.—To whom do you pay the rent?

A.—I was paying the rent to the Raja of Jalanthra, before. Later on we used to pay it to Mr. Chengal Rao Nayudu of this village. Then our Muth was purchased by Survepalli Mahant. Ours is a mokhasa village. It was purchased from Mr. Chengal Rao Nayudu. We agreed to pay the share in cash, when they said that they would construct big tanks. They have raised the estimate and as a result of it we are suffering. The Mahant died and the manager is raising the estimate.

Q.—How much of paddy do you give for 4 acres of land, and what is its price?

A.—I pay eight bundles, the rice of which is Rs. 40. I was paying a rent of Rs. 12 formerly. It has now become Rs. 40.

Q.—When were you paying that amount?

A.—I was paying it to Mr. Chengal Rao Nayudu 30 years ago.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—Rents have not been reduced. I request that old rates of rent may be restored.

Q.—Are there tanks?

A.—There are small tanks but no repairs are done to them.



Q.—Is your wet land situated below a tank?

A.—Yes. But the tanks are small and the banks were washed away and no repairs are done to them. An interest of 3 Kunchams is annually levied on every 'Naithu.' 'Naithu' means 5 kunchams. For every 5 kunchams an interest of 3 kunchams is demanded, so that the ryot may be in arrears.

Q.—What are your arrears?

A.—Not much. It is only 12 'Naithus.'

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—We submit that we cannot pay excessive rents and that we are in need of a water-source.

Witness No. 48.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pyli Appala Nayudu, son of Kapineedu, aged 40 years, cultivator, Devarapoodi Gunkalam (Vizianagram estate).

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How long is it since the rate of one rupee was enhanced to Rs. 2?

A.—I submitted a petition for the abolition of that amount. I am a tiller of soil from the times of my forefathers. Those days are gone. There was no water-rate then. Groundnuts were being cultivated all these days but that crop is failing now as there is no rainfall. There are four Estates, represented by Jonnala Valasa Raju Garu, Poosapati Appalanarasimha Raju Garu and B. L. N. Raju. We are cultivating their lands. We want the water-rate to be reduced and the tanks to be repaired. We could not pay the rent for the last four years. We are in such a helpless condition. Crops have failed this year and we have not paid even a pie. We are as helpless as a flock of sheep. Arrangements should be made with a view to prevent the landlords from collecting arrears from us. Lands have not been surveyed and rent has been fixed collectively on the whole village. Tanks should be repaired. (Presents mahazar.)

Witness No. 50.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Vedula Suryanarayana Gupta, son of Jagannatham Gupta, aged 44 years, inamdar, Harischandrapuram agraaharam.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Have you sent a written memorandum and have you signed it?

A.—Yes, I sent the memorandum and signed it.

Q.—Are you going to dwell only on the points contained in that memorandum?

A.—Yes. I desire that action may be taken as represented in writing.

Q.—How much of inam land have you?

A.—I have inam lands in four or five villages.

Q.—What is the total extent of the lands?

A.—I have 80 acres of land, of which a portion is cultivated by myself and the rest has been leased out to ryots.

Q.—What is it that you want to say in this inquiry?

A.—It would lead to hardship, if inam villages are treated on a par with other estate villages. I have come to represent that inamdars are put to much loss as inam lands are classified as Estates, and that such classification is unfair. The Act—the Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act—that was passed in the past, is not a proper legislation.

Q.—Who are the proprietors of the soil in inam villages?

A.—We are the proprietors.

Q.—How do your under-tenants cultivate?

A.—They cultivate as sub-tenants to us.



Q.—Are there 'cowles and kathapas'?

A.—Yes. They cultivate the soil on the understanding that they should give half the yield. These inam lands belong to Parlakimidi. We ourselves carry out repairs to these lands. Tanks, etc., are also repaired by us. When crops fail any year, we supply seeds and also advance money for cultivation expenses. As we ourselves cultivate the soil, we realize the difficulties of ryots and act in such a manner as not to make them incur loss or social liabilities.

Q.—What is it that you want to represent to this Committee? Do you wish that this Act should be repealed?

A.—Zamindars own large extents of land. They can afford to spend big sums of money, approach the Collector and represent their grievances.

Q.—Have you got papers with you to show that you are the proprietors of the soil?

A.—There are inam registers.

Q.—Tell me what you have?

A.—(Files some inam registers.)

Q.—You have filed a suit for ejection of the ryot on the ground that he has no right. And the issue has been decided in your favour in two courts. Is it stated in those judgments that the ryot has no right?

A.—Yes. A suit was filed against a ryot in Harischendrapuram itself. In the Munsif's Court, the case was decided in our favour. When it went up to the High Court on appeal, it was remanded to the lower court. We did not get the judgment of the lower court. It is (pending) in the High Court itself.

(Filed a copy of judgment regarding Thotada Agraharam.) This land belongs to my nephew. (Filed Harischendrapuram inam register.)

Q.—Have you any other documents?

A.—No. In respect of a purchased forest land a patta has been granted to Sreepada Kamanna by the Raja of Parlakimidi. (Filed.) Such lands have been reclaimed and brought under cultivation. We request that our present rights may be protected from violation.

Q.—How much does the ryot who cultivates the soil pay as rent and what is the kattubadi (payable) in respect of inam lands?

A.—Half the produce is paid (as rent by the ryot). Groundnut used to be cultivated in wet and dry lands in the past. The practice is that the ryots agree to cultivate groundnut likewise subject to the payment of a fixed sum. They take one 'Buddi' on lease and pay Rs. 25 for it.

Q.—What is left to him if he gives half to half?

A.—A portion is left to him. Hay, etc., is left to him. He does not give us a half share in that.

Q.—Does the ryot himself bear the cost of seed?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is left to him, if he carries on cultivation bearing expenses himself? Is he expected to give one-half of the net yield after deducting all expenses?

A.—Yes; half the yield after deducting expenses.

Q.—Do you contribute anything towards those expenses?

A.—We contribute half the cost of manure, etc., required for cultivation. The ryot pens cattle in the fields. We bear half the expenditure incurred in supplying earth. We carry out repairs to lands and tanks. I am cultivating 32 acres (of land) in my village. From the portion that is left to me as profit after deducting all expenses incidental to cultivation, I can say that the ryot stands to gain more than a half share.

Q.—Do you know that they (the ryots) say that the cost (of cultivation) is increasing?

A.—A sum of more than Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 is unnecessary for paddy seed required for one acre of ploughed land. For one acre of paddy crop, more than Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 is unnecessary. In hay, he stands to gain more than half the portion he gives as rent. Half the yield is given to us after cultivating the lands in which we have the proprietary right.

Q.—Does he gain anything besides the wages for labour he does?

A.—I am able to realize wages and carry on cultivation. I realize the land share and also the share that I should get.

Q.—What is the source of water-supply for your lands?

A.—They depend upon rainfall. Water is obtained from tanks also.



Q.—Are the tanks kept in good repair?

A.—The ryot need not do anything. We carry out the repairs ourselves.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—We request that we may be excluded from the operation of this Estates Land Act.

Q.—You say that you have lands in the inam village. Who are the actual inamdars?

A.—They died. We have purchased from the inamdars their shares.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Do the zamindars have private holdings? They gave you as it were such private land?

A.—The zamindars gave us forest lands.

Q.—When these lands were given to you in these five or six villages, were they all situated in forests?

A.—I do not know how they were, when they were first given.

Q.—Would you like to retain the ryots, who are at present cultivating your inam lands, if they regularly pay the rent due to you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For how long, have the ryots been in occupation (of your lands)?

A.—For a very long time.

Q.—How long since have they been giving you a half share in the produce?

A.—I know that they have been giving it for the past 20 or 25 years.

Q.—Are your lands fertile? Or, are the lands of the zamindars in the neighbourhood fertile?

A.—As we fertilize the soil of our lands they give a good yield.

Q.—Do you own Government lands? Do you get a good yield from them?

A.—Some lands yield two crops and some others three.

Q.—While the Government ryot pays the Government and the zamin ryot pays the zamindar their respective rates, will your rates, which are higher than Government and zamin rates, be profitable to ryots?

A.—They are profitable. In Harischandrapuram, 140 persons have leased out their (inam) lands.

Q.—Do you accept the rate prevailing in 1933 or do you want half-share?

A.—We do not want this, we want the rate which was hitherto in vogue.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—How many inamdars and ryots are there in your village?

A.—They are about 200 inamdars.

Q.—Have you got old 'kathapas' (lease-deeds executed by ryots) with you?

A.—Yes. I have them.

Q.—Have you got with you the 'Kathapas' executed at the time when you gave statements before the inam commission?

A.—They are in my house.

Q.—Have you got the account of your private expenditure?

A.—Yes. No separate account is maintained as the cultivation is done jointly.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Will you produce the book, if necessary?

A.—Yes. I shall produce it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Does not the ryot give one-half?

A.—He gives one-half of the yield.

Q.—Does the ryot bear all the expenses? Do you not have anything to do with expenses?

A.—The ryot himself bears all those expenses?

Q.—Does he realize the cost by selling hay? Do you get your half-share also?

A.—Something more is left.

Q.—What is the yield per acre?

A.—Ten putties of grain is obtained and ten putties cost Rs. 20.

Q.—Are there zamin villages in the neighbourhood?

A.—No. There are no zamin villages in our neighbourhood.

Q.—What is the price (of land) in your village?

A.—The price of one acre is Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. Groundnut, tobacco, little millet, ragi and horse-gram are cultivated.

Q.—Does the ryot give more, if tobacco is cultivated?

A.—Rupees 10 to Rs. 15 is paid per acre if tobacco is cultivated.



Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Do you know how much it would cost to feed a pair of plough-oxen?

A.—It may cost much, if estimates of expenditure for grazing cattle are to be prepared.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Are there communal lands for your village?

A.—Yes. They are being used for communal purposes.

Q.—Is the tank in Harischandrapuram kept in good repair?

A.—Major repairs were carried out eight years ago and minor repairs are being carried out by us now and then.

Witness No. 51.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Marri Kamayya, Garudapalli village, Sunkara Mutta, Madgole estate.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How many of you have come here?

A.—Two hundred of us have come.

Q.—Why have you come here?

A.—We are asked to construct roads without any remuneration. “ Vetti ” (unpaid) labour is extracted from us. Work like reaping and stacking crops is all done by us. From the sowing of seeds to the delivery of the produce at the landholder's house, we do all the work. We are not given even food.

Q.—Then what do you eat?

A.—Our females, give us flattened rice and roots and we eat them and do labour

Q.—Don't you have “ Podu ”?

A.—If we cut “ podu,” the forest authorities take 30 or 40 rupees. Some people used to pay this amount hitherto by selling their cattle. They give trouble to those who have no cattle. I have a small piece of land that can be cultivated by one plough. Two or three putties can be obtained, if there is rain.

Q.—Have you any other land besides this?

A.—There is no “ Garru.” Hill is taken away by the muttadar himself. He takes the land and extracts unpaid labour from us.

Q.—Does the muttadar belong to your community?

A.—Muttadar means a big zamindar.

Q.—Where do they come from? Are they born on hills and brought up there?

A.—Yes, but “ Bhaktas.” They work on behalf of all of us.

Q.—Will you be satisfied, if you are given the right of cutting podu in your agency?

A.—It all depends upon your goodness, Sir, we can't hope to live without some right or other.

Q.—How many members are there in your family? How much “ podu ” is required?

A.—There are 4 or 5 members. At least 5 or 6 putties of grain is necessary. We, two hundred people have come here from the agency to represent these matters.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Are you even beaten and made to bear dholies (palanquins)?

A.—We are made to do so, whenever any officer comes.

Witness No. 52.

Vizagapatam.

11th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Garthu Kistam Padayi, son of Bhimanna Padayi, Ginnelakota Mutta, Madgole estate.

He presents a mahazar.

During the Dasara festival, As. 2 is collected from every house for a buffalo-bull. We have to supply 5 kunchams of rice and one cock to the muttadar. We don't eat it, but Malas eat it. Having received Rs. 30 in the Koduvada, Jodevada muttas, he gave a receipt for Rs. 20.



Q.—Will you be satisfied if some podus are given to you in the hill in which you live?

A.—That is exactly what we also want.

Q.—What does it matter to you, if the rest of it (the hill) is forest?

A.—There is no trouble to us if a part (of the hill) is forest. We must be granted one portion (of the hill).

Q.—How much would suffice in your village?

A.—We don't know accounts, sir.

Q.—When did you start?

A.—We started on Saturday.

Q.—When did you arrive here?

A.—We arrived to-day at 10 o'clock.

Q.—Have you got money with you?

A.—We have none. That is why we did not come by car.

Q.—Why have so many of you come here?

A.—We have come to ventilate our grievances. We came in large numbers in order to evoke sympathy in you.

Witness No. 53.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gopala Bhoopathy Deva Varma, son of Jagannadha Bhoopathi Deva Varma, aged 35 years, Mokhasadar, Inamdar and President of the Ryots' Association, Madgole, Madgole estate.

To the questions put by the Chairman the witness stated as follows.

"I belong to Madugole estate. Five or six years ago, the present Madugole estate became merged in the Jayapuram estate. I possess jiroiyati land and also inam land. I am a mokhasadar, too. As the president of the ryots' association, I speak on behalf of jiroiyati ryots. Madugole is just now under survey and settlement operations. The estate authorities are getting these operations done by Government. Attempts are being made to enhance rents. River channels or perennial rivers do not exist in Madugole. The streams are only rainfed. Attempts are nevertheless being made to enhance rents. Even the existing rents are in excess of the yield. Rent in our village ranges from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 12 or Rs. 20 per acre. Wet land depends on rain. There are also big and small tanks. These tanks are not repaired. All the estate lands in the village are under the occupation of ryots. The dry rate ranges from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. The present rates are high. I submit that they should be reduced. The rents are high, even though we may have good crops. As stated already, the rent ranges up to Rs. 20. The rate should decrease. Attempts are being made to gradually enhance rates. The ryot has no scope to prosper unless the rates are reduced by a half. The wet rates may be fixed at Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 because adequate water-sources are wanting and the yield, too, is not good. Enhancement was not effected all on a sudden. On account of auctions and competition it rose to Rs. 20; it has remained like that for a long time. The dry rate may be fixed at 8 annas or Re. 1. Besides, as regards matters pertaining to forests, the timber required for agricultural purposes for the village used to be taken on payment of Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 in the mustadri manner per village. Now the levy together with what has to be given to the officials, ranges from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 1-12-0. This arrangement has been in existence for 25 or 30 years past. The present rates are very high. The officials are charging now Rs. 15 or even Rs. 20 per cart-load of big timber. They are levying the same rates both for agricultural use and commercial use. Dealers used to be (treated) separately. Separate rates used to be charged for (timber used for) private purposes. Formerly 1 pie used to be paid for gathering tamraind. But now 1 anna has to be paid for a maund weight of tamarind. To my knowledge, it has not been gathered free of charge. Formerly grazing in forests was free. Now a grazing fee is collected at the rate of 4 annas or 2 annas for cattle and As. 1-6 in the case of sheep. This is excessive. At this stage, he presented a written memorandum to the Chairman.

A L.M.P. hospital exists in Madugole. The estate authorities were paying six hundred rupees per year to that hospital. They have discontinued it. The result is that there are no medicines. Formerly they used to give medicines, now they do not give medicines. The hospital belongs to the district board. The estate authorities should be made to continue the subscription they used to pay. Hitherto, Myrabolams and other forest produce used to be taken free of charge from forests. Now they are given to



contractors. Hitherto poor families used to make their living by gathering leaves and selling them after stitching them. Now contractors do not allow them to gather leaves unless they do stitching for them. Therefore they purchase stitched up leaves at low prices and sell them at high prices exporting them to Madras. Poor people are suffering severe hardship. A monopoly has been created in respect of leaves in the forest. They do not allow them to gather leaves unless they sell the latter to them.

Remission is not granted at all in our village and in our estate. Remission is granted if the rent is not paid. But generally it is not granted. Since the road between the Agency and Madugole is not repaired by the estate authorities it is in a very bad condition. The public are very much inconvenienced. The estate authorities should render help and repair the road.

Low class people do podu cultivation in the forests adjoining our village. Besides forest tribes, also people of the low classes in the village, i.e., Gadapas and Kodullu do similar cultivation. Also the practice of felling forests, and growing with the help of rain water cholam, cumbu, etc., by sowing seeds having dug up the earth with iron bars instead of ploughing the soil has long been in vogue. The soil is broken up with spades and seeds are sown. Generally, cholam, millet and little millet are grown. It is this that is called podu cultivation. The Madugole estate authorities have now started to levy rent for that also. The method of levying rent for podu cultivation did not exist in the past. This sort of cultivation is done not merely by forest tribes but by members of the lowest class also.

Channels are not at all repaired. There are no river channels. Water does not always flow. Crops grow, only if there is rain. Otherwise, no. The estate authorities should effect repairs. They repair the tanks in the village once in ten years. They go on doing this work village by village. It would thus take ten years for repairs to be done a second time in one village. The duty of effecting repairs belongs to the estate authorities. Jama-bandi is not done at all in our villages. Only in respect of the quit-rent payable to the Government, the Government officials themselves hold the jamabandi.

To questions put by the Rajah Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness stated: My income per year amounts to six thousand rupees. I pay a rent of Rs. 7 for jiroiyati land. I possess  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. I got from the mokhasa Rs. 6,000. I do not know the prices in respect of our lands. Prices are, of course, low. Survey operations have been going on for four years past. Lands in our village are offered for sale. It is not possible to estimate the price. I have neither purchased nor sold lands. It is not possible to fix the price. Documents are wanting. All the land in our village belongs to the ryots. They do cultivation themselves. It is not possible to state the price of land. Rents in zamindari villages are greater than the rates on Government lands. They cannot be compared.

To a question by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu the witness said; "Forest exists in my mokhasa. There are also people who do podu cultivation. Whatever the extent of cultivation a family pays a rent of 8 annas. Whatever the amount of produce, it pays only 8 annas. Cultivation is going on as usual. The entire forest is meant for communal use. This is called 'Banjar'. Pattas are not granted in respect of podu cultivation. People engaged in podu cultivation change the lands after five or ten years if the yield from them goes down. They carry on this podu cultivation in another area. They go to another plot when the (previous) plot becomes barren. The extent under podu would be 3 or 4 or 5 acres. It does not exceed 5 or 6 acres. If the extent happens to be greater, in no case would it exceed 10 acres. Generally, there would be no objection to give land for podu cultivation. Objection has been raised of late. Nobody purchases podu lands. As long as rent is paid, the zamindar does not object."

To questions put by the Rajah Sahib of Mirzapur the witness stated: In our village, people would be purchasing as well as selling lands. I do not know the price of land. I have neither purchased nor sold land. Rents in zamindaris do not conform to a standard; they are high. By high, I mean the rent per acre is Rs. 7. It is four years since survey operations took place. Our village contains a large number of ryots. It contains ryots who pay large amounts of rent. I have been president of the ryots' association for the past one year. Ryots living in the surrounding villages have come and told me that the rates in all the villages are high. Hence, I know that rents in the estate are high. I have not prepared accounts. Our village has got a munsif and a karnam. They have not come here. Just so much of land as is convenient for podu cultivation would be taken for cultivation. A reservation line would be drawn. This cultivation should



not be done in forest reserve. If cultivation is done in reserved forests legal proceedings are taken. In our village about a hundred or two hundred acres of land is under podu cultivation. The estate authorities have caused obstruction in the case of some people. "Talabas" grow this crop do this cultivation in our village. I have planted a mango garden in my jiroyati land and a rent of rupees seven per acre is levied. I planted the mango garden about twenty years ago. The plot has been a patta land for forty or fifty years past. The patta is in my father's name. I have been the president of the ryots' association for the past one year. Many ryots have told me that rents are excessive. Rents are excessive in the estate as a whole. I possess six mokhasa villages. I possess the right of jiroyati over all these. I pay only rent. I have been paying (rent) ever since the patta was first granted. The rates have not been enhanced all these years. They have not been enhanced from the very beginning, i.e., since, I came into possession of the same. Water-sources are not repaired at all. We used to do it ourselves. Though the practice of granting remission in case of failure of crops is in vogue remission is not granted. As a rule remission is granted now and then when it is represented that crops have failed. Whenever representation is made, a reduction in rent is made. As regards inam lands, the estate authorities filed suits for resumption of inams. They wanted to convert (the same) into jiroyati land and took legal action to that end. We put up defence in the lower court but the case was decided in favour of the estate authorities. All the inamdars preferred an appeal to the district court at Vizagapatam. The judgment of the appellate court was in our favour. The estate authorities appealed to the High Court. Some of us defended the case. The High Court confirmed the judgment of the Vizagapatam Court. It went against the estate authorities. The High Court decided that inam lands could not be converted into jiroyati. Unable to afford to appeal to the High Court, some of us entered into a compromise with the estate authorities and took jiroyati pattas. There are two to three hundred ryots in our village. The population of our village is six thousand and odd.

Witnesses Nos. 55 and 56.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Messrs. Gunnayya and Bhamidipati Venkateswarlu.**

The first witness examined was Mr. Gunniah. His statement was in English. The second witness examined was Bhamidipati Venkateswarlu. His statement was all in English. He read from a muchilika as follows:—

"This muchilika has been given to signify our consent to cultivate for five years and quit in the sixth year and pay rent at the rate of Rs. 8 per annum. At the end of this year, "you may lease out the land as you like." He files the document "Nivada muchilika."

Witness No. 57.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. G. S. Sabapathy, son of Bharat Sabapathy, aged 35 years, agriculture, Agent of Radhakanta Mutta, Tekkali estate.**

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the matter with you?

A.—We belong to "Balajibiragi matam." Karlapudi agraharam has been given. The land is not cultivable. The uncultivable land has been brought under cultivation by us. It was granted prior to the year Nandana. It had not been cultivated before that. The Karlapudi seri was granted for the sake of dispensing 'Sadavritti' (doles of food-stuffs) to guests—making offerings to God three times a day and leading a devotional life.

Q.—What is the extent of the land?

A.—Two hundred acres of which hundred acres is wet land and hundred acres dry land. Up till now the produce is being shared half to half in respect of both wet and dry lands.



Q.—How long, to your knowledge, has this method of sharing been in existence?

A.—I know that this method has been in existence since 1921.

Q.—Is there record (evidence) to show that the same method of sharing had existed even prior to this?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is it specified in it also that you would give half the produce?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you possess records to show that you have been paying in this manner?

A.—Yes. We do possess records covering a period of sixty to seventy years. A contribution to the endowment also is being paid from 'Rangam'. (రంగం ?) Rs. 18 is being paid under the Religious Endowments Act.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is half of the produce yielded by the actual acreage of land?

A.—The produce is 200 garises—100 garises from dry land and 100 garises from wet land.

Witness No. 58.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. N. Venkata Perichainulu, son of Suryanarayana, aged 50 years, agriculturist, residing at Bobbili, Bobbili estate.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness stated:—

There is a darimila inam also. I should like to say something about it.

Questioned by the Chairman, he stated: Section 3, (2-b) of the Madras Estates Land Act provides that the minor inams subsequent to (the enactment of) the Estates Land Act, should be exempted and that the darimila inams assessed to Kattubadi of the character of leases, which came into existence subsequent to settlement should be exempted because re-settlement inams have been enfranchised. This refers only to estates that have become subdivided, and that it ought not to apply to inams. Inams assessed to kattubadi should not be brought under its operation. These are leases and should not be subjected to compulsory subdivision, and I hold that even if, such process might create the right of melvaram, it will not lose its character of kudivaram. Even in cases in which a subdivision has been effected, the character of kudivaram will not go, though the right of melvaram may exist. We wish that this point should be elucidated when the Inams Act [the Madras Estates Land Amendment Act(?) ] was enacted in 1934, the Privy Council held in its latest decision that if they had been granted by the zamindar, the two 'warams' vested in the zamindar. We raised a hue and cry that, as grantors had been enjoying all rights since 41 Madras till the latest 34 Madras, as the lands had been granted with all rights, and also assessed to kattubadi, as the same had undergone extreme fragmentation, and as all the inamdars were minor inamdars, they should not be classed as 'landholders' that they should have right to cultivate the land themselves (as per 38 Madras) and that darimila inams should be exempted. These were excluded by all the select committee also. (Files Madras Weekly Notes.) When Act No. 10 of 1934 was introduced in the year 1933, these were dropped for want of opportunities. I submit that the Estates Land Act be overhauled and the irregularities dropped.

Witness No. 59.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pragada Ramamurthy, son of Chinna Pattabhiramayya, aged 40 years, inamdar, residing at Booragam village, Pathapatnam taluk, Parlakimedi estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much lands have you? A.—My lands are located in Booragam, and I own ten shares in the place.



Q.—What have you got to say? A.—I submit that our village should be excluded from the operation of the Estates Land Act.

Q.—Do you say that the kudivaram right exclusively vests in you? A.—We do some cultivation, we change ryots by transferring lands from one to another.

Q.—Do muchilikas exist? A.—Yes. Since 1910, they have been giving us half of the produce. Muchilikas exist here. The lands have not been surveyed. They are called 'guddalu'. The rent for about two acres of land is Rs. 35. In the case of sugarcane, the rent is Rs. 35. In the case of (crops) other than sugarcane, the produce is shared. All the muchilikas were given subsequent to 1911 only. As per fair inams register, it will be evident that the zamindars have granted all the rights in respect of inams.

Witness No. 60.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Varanasi Jaganna, son of Venkatavudhanuu, aged 30 years, inamdar, Harischandrapuram Agraharam, Chicacole taluk.

Questioned by the Chairman, he stated : Originally it (the Agraharam) was the zamindar's. Afterwards the Government took it and granted it. Land-cess, etc., we used to pay during the time of the inam Commissioner to the Government and we have been since paying it to the Government. We have not been paying to the Raja.

Q.—Have you receipts to show that you have been paying it to the Government?

A.—We have receipts since the inams were settled by the Government inams department. Originally, it (the Agraharam) was a zamindari inam. Government took possession of it and granted it to us. We used to pay shrotriem to the zamindar, as the Agraharam was originally a shrotriem village. We used to pay it shrotriem to the zamindar as long as we were in it. But afterwards we have been paying everything only to the Government. We have not been making payment to the zamindar since 1862. It is now a Government inam. Though it (our village) was under the zamindar originally, we used to remit to Government Rs. 11,000 and odd for our village. We call it kattubadi. I am a petty inamdar. I possess 10 acres of dry land and 10 acres of wet land. I want to cultivate the same and make it my means of livelihood. My 20 acres land is cultivated by 8 ryots. I get one half of the produce in respect of the wet land. No rent has been fixed for dry land, as it has not been surveyed and rent is paid in proportion to the yield, at a particular rate per "gudda." Since the legislative enactment of 1936, ryots have been paying rents. The land has not been surveyed so far. The extent cultivated is based on rough calculation and the plots go by the names "gudda", "isthava" and "punja." We submit that we may be excluded from the operation of the Inams Act, the Madras Estates Land Amendment Act(?). We wish to carry on cultivation personally. If we are subject to the Estates Land Act, being the small inamdars that (we are) our lot would be very hard. We are petty inamdars and we wish that we may be exempted excluded(?) from the operation of the Madras Estates Land Amendment Act. The Chairman said: "send your papers to Rajahmundry."

Witness No. 63.

Vizagapatam.

12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pilla Krishnasami, son of Bangaru, aged 60 years, Maduravada, Vizianagram estate.

I submit this memorandum. This document also relates to that.



Witness No. 64. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Virusa Potanna, son of Sanyasi, residing at Bakkannapalem, Madhuravada.

I submit this written memorandum. These two also relate to that.

Witness No. 65. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gulimi Luchchanna, son of Lingayya, residing at Duppalapadu Agraharam.

I have submitted a written memorandum together with the papers relating to that.

Witness No. 66. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Killada Papi Nayudu, son of Ramakrishna Nayudu, residing at Sithambapuram Agraharam, Lakshminarasayapalem.

I have submitted all papers and they contain what I wish to say.

Witness No. 67. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Netheti Venkatanarayana, son of Lakshminarasayya, inamdar, aged 35 years, Appikonda Agraharam, Ankithanvari estate, Anakapalle taluk.

(Filed documents.)

Witness No. 68. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Doddi Venkanna, son of Erikayya, aged 45 years, residing at Jaggayyapeta Agraharam, Nagulapalli, Chemudu estate.

What I wish to say I have submitted in writing. I have submitted the receipts pertaining thereto.

Witness No. 69. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Vemaraju Rama Rao, son of Subbarayudu, Revada estate, Anakapalle taluk.

What all I wish to say is contained in the memorandum, I have submitted. I have submitted the memorandum.

Witness No. 70. Vizagapatam. 12th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Manti Dalem Nayudu, son of Papi Nayudu, aged 36 years, agriculture, residing at Thilaru, Thilaru estate.

I have put the points in writing the details. Patta sheet No. 74. The rent has increased. In respect of patta No. 74, the rent has become greater than what it was in 1905. Fasli 1321. I submit this memorandum. The papers relate to it. The rates have been enhanced.



Witness No. 71.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dariamraju Narasimham, son of Nagaraju, aged 45 years,  
Estate overseer, Payakaraopeta, Chemudu estate.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How long have you been as an overseer?

A.—From 1902.

Q.—What are the duties of an overseer?

A.—Irrigation works and water distribution.

Q.—Is it about irrigation that you are going to speak?

A.—I shall only say what I know.

Q.—Who is the estate manager?

A.—Mr. Patu Seshagiri Rao has been the Diwan for the last three years.

Q.—Who is in charge of the Revenue department? Is it the Diwan?

A.—The supervisor.

Q.—Is the person looking after the Revenue department called supervisor or Revenue officer?

A.—He is called supervisor. Mr. D. Satyanarayana Pantulu is now the supervisor.

Q.—What is the wet rate and what is the dry rate in the estate?

A.—Excepting Anakapalle, the wet rate is Rs. 10 per acre and the high dry rate is Rs. 3, the low rate being As. 8 and even As. 6.

Q.—For how long have these rates been in force?

A.—These were in force even prior to the Estates Land Act.

Q.—Have these not been enhanced since the advent of the Estates Land Act?

A.—The enhancement was never made wholesale. Whosoever purchased land was charged As. 3 or As. 6 but not more.

Q.—What are the Anakapalle rates?

A.—Anakapalle is composed of four khandams (blocks). There are four rates, respectively for the four khandams. Number 1 khandam inside the tank bears a high rate which goes up to about Rs. 20. The dry rate varies between Rs. 8 and Rs. 9. For No. 2 khandam, it is less. It is about Rs. 15. There is no dry lands in No. 2 khandam. The wet rate of No. 3 khandam is low. For that khandam, it is 6, 5. As I had worked in that khandam, I am submitting the information.

Q.—From 1908 till now, it has not been enhanced?

A.—No. At the time of patta transfer, a sum of As. 3 or As. 6 was charged, but no enhancement was made. This rate alone had been in force even 10 years prior to the Estates Land Act. No enhancement has been made from the time I came to office. I do not know what happened before that.

Q.—Are there any estates in the neighbourhood of Chemudu estate?

A.—There is Vizianagram estate.

Q.—Is it by the side of Anakapalle also?

A.—Tummapalem is on the Anakapalle boundary by the side of Viziamarajupeta.

Q.—What is the wet rate in force in this estate village and what is the wet rate in the Vizianagram estate?

A.—It will be equal to that the Vizianagram rate. It is equal to the rate of the khandam which is inside the tank. The same is the case with dry rate of Thummapalem.

Q.—Is it the same in the second village also?

A.—Both are high rates. These are equal to those of Anakapalle.

Q.—Are there any more (estates) adjacent to Chemudu estate?

A.—There are none.

Q.—Does Vizianagram estate lie adjacent to Chemudu estate at any other places or not?

A.—No.

Q.—Where are the villages?

A.—The Chemudu estate villages are in Sarvasiddhi, Anakapalle and Parvatipuram taluks.

Q.—How much difference is there between the rate for appropriate wet lands in Vizianagram estate and the wet rate of Chemudu estate?

A.—They are equal.



Q.—How long ago were irrigation repairs effected in the estate?

A.—We do them every year. In 1916, we had effected irrigation improvements. Those were registered in Government books under sections 16 and 17. (He filed Collector's orders). In the case of every channel, there are similar orders and objections. After inspection, the District Collector passed proceedings that year to the effect that the work done by the estate was good.

Q.—Was it in 1916, that the irrigation works were executed?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it damaged by the hurricane of 1923?

A.—In 1923, the damages sustained in this estate were meagre. Severe damages were sustained on account of the flood in October 1928.

Q.—Have you got papers to show the repairs you have effected since 1923?

A.—There are papers to show the repairs effected from 1923 to 1928 and from 1928 till now. We have the connected estimates and sanctions.

Q.—Is there any forest in Chemudu estate?

A.—There is a small forest area.

Q.—Have the ryots got rights to usually work in the forest?

A.—We have never objected to that. We never object to (the removal of) timber or grazing. It is not a big forest. In what we have, we have no objection to ordinary things being done. There is a small levy for the removal of timber. For a head-load the charge is 3 pies and for a cart-load it is As. 8.

Q.—When was it made a reserve (forest)?

A.—It has not been registered as a reserve. An establishment is maintained on behalf of the estate to watch the reserve.

Q.—Are there arrears (of rent) in your estate?

A.—The arrears were written off during the regime of the Maharani.

Q.—Of what date are the arrears now outstanding?

A.—Out of big amounts, a little remains over (as arrears) each year. Collection is fairly made. The villages are good ones. The facilities are copious. Hence collection work is facilitated.

Q.—Are there communal lands and porambokes in your village?

A.—There are communal porambokes.

Q.—Are not the communal lands of your estate together with these granted on pattas?

A.—It has not been so from the outset. Encroachment made by a person would result in his eviction from the land and no further action is taken.

Q.—Leaving aside Anakapalle, what is the difference between your estate rates and the rates for Government lands? Is the estate rate higher or lower than the rate for adjacent Government lands?

A.—It is somewhat higher in villages where there are facilities and it is also somewhat lower (elsewhere). There is not much difference. There is the Sarvasiddhi taluk. (Shows a plan.) The Chemudu estate has been divided into Mangavaram and Nakkapalli thanas. There is only a slight and not a vast difference between the Government rate and the rate of our estate. The estate of Mr. Koppaka Narasimharaju lies in the neighbourhood. The Koppaka rates are higher than ours. Our rates are identical with those of Peda Gunmalur estate. I shall give you this plan. The Government villages, too, are there. There are 87 villages in Sarvasiddhi taluk. I shall prepare the list and give you.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—How many acres are there with rent ranging from ten to twenty rupees?

A.—It is only a small khandam tract but not a big one. The Government rates and our rates are on the same level.

Q.—Would you not incur loss if the Government rates are introduced in your estate?

A.—The service inams have been enfranchised. Proportionate rates have been calculated and levied.

Q.—If the rates are levied taramwar, there would be no difference between your rates and the Government rates. Is it not so?

A.—There may be a slight difference. These lands yield even three crops.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Does your land yield more than the Government lands?

A.—Yes. Hence the higher rates.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—You are the overseer for one portion?

A.—I look after the work in three thanas.



Q.—How many water sources are there? Is there an account of repairs?

A.—I am presenting the same.

Q.—Have the tanks silted up owing to breaches in their bunds?

A.—Yes, during the floods. We have restored them to the normal condition.

Q.—Is there an account for it?

A.—There is an account for all annual repairs.

Q.—You have said that there is no difference between your rates and the rates of the adjoining Government villages. How are the Government rates?

A.—I shall let you know the rates of Sarvasiddhi taluk. The rates are different for each village.

Q.—Please say on the average what the rates are for Government jirayati lands?

A.—The wet rate goes up to Rs. 10.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What is the amount of (cultivation) expenses for an acre of wet land?

A.—The produce obtained ranges between Rs. 40 and Rs. 50. Approximately an expenditure of Rs. 5 for seeds, Rs. 5 for transplantation, Rs. 5 for harvesting and Rs. 5 for ploughing, all coming up to Rs. 20 would be incurred. A greater amount of income is realized in the case of paddy and sugarcane (crops). We receive a rent of less than Rs. 10.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Are there villages in your estate which pay rent in grain? In Viraghattam?

A.—There are certain villages. I worked in major thanas. I did not work in those (Viraghattam) parts. I can only give that much of information, as I have been able to gather in places where I worked.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you get cultivation carried on on behalf of the estate?

A.—Beyond supplying water, I did not attend to cultivation. But I am in the know of the things.

Q.—Is not the land as per patta No. 108 of Anakapalle village 18 acres in extent?

A.—I do not know it by heart.

Q.—Do ryots in your estate give lands on sub-lease privately?

A.—They do so. I shall let you know after looking into the accounts. We have prepared a statement of the lands given privately on sub-lease. Patta No. 108 of Anakapalle belongs to Peela Venkatarreddi Nayudu. It is wet, eight acres in extent. It fetches Rs. 108 by way of rent. By giving it privately on sub-lease, an income of Rs. 560 is being derived from it. There are deeds in this connexion. I shall file them. I have prepared a statement from the record. I shall file the same. A wet land of eight acres of Thotada village, which pays to the estate a rent of Rs. 157-8-4, has been given on private sub-lease by the tenant concerned for Rs. 600. For No. 16 of Aratlakota, the rent which Maddula Acharyulu pays (to the estate) on one acre is Rs. 236-2-9. It has been sub-leased for Rs. 900. There is the Godicherla mutha. There is a block of 30 acres. The wet land of Dasari Brahmayya of Karalam Lakshmi-puram, which is 36 acres in extent, pays the estate a rent of Rs. 487-8-4. He has sub-leased it for Rs. 1,200. There is a registered kadhapa (counter-lease deed) executed by the under-tenant. The estate has not been surveyed. The areas of patta lands have been calculated approximately. No. 2 of Payakarowpeta, 16 acres of wet land belonging to Jade Somanna pays the estate a rent of Rs. 156-10-6. He has been giving it on sub-lease for Rs. 400.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—In the case of similar lands, which have begun to pay rent to the estate only recently, what would be the excess realized (from sub-lease)?

A.—The excess would be half to half. If we get Rs. 100 the ryot gets more than Rs. 200. There are no lands at all in respect of which a smaller rent is realized.

Q.—Are there not persons paying a rent of less than Rs. 50?

A.—There are. There are also persons paying Rs. 10, 15 and Rs. 8 as rent. But if they sub-lease their lands, they would be realizing even two-thirds of the amount.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is it not to that area that the rent you speak of pertains?

A.—Yes. As the land has not been surveyed, the area is not precisely known, but the rent is correct.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Is the Revenue Department separate from the Department of Public Works in your estate?

A.—Yes.



Q.—You are giving information regarding the Revenue Department also. Are there not persons to offer information separately on behalf of that department?

A.—There are.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Does the lessee stands to gain?

A.—Yes. He would save.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—If wells are dug, is water available close to the ground-level?

A.—Yes. The land in the vicinity of the village is very fertile. On the whole, fertility will not be in the same proportion (for all the lands). There are lands with high rates as well as lands with low rates. Some lands are fit for sugarcane cultivation while some are not. The Vakada (village) land is fit for it. Aratlakota (land) is not fit for it. They grow paddy there. The land belongs to Maddula Acharyulu.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—If the land is leased out to an under-tenant, what rent is paid?

A.—They give besides the rent, twice the amount.

Q.—Are the lands shown in the statement those lying close to the village?

A.—All are not close to the villages. Some lands are far off.

Q.—What are the prices of lands in your village?

A.—Anakapalle lands bear high rates of price. No. 389 patta of Anakapalle belongs to B. Sitaramayya. The rent per acre is Rs. 5. He purchased 1 acre 50 cents for Rs. 750. It was in the year (19)30 that he made the purchase. No. 170 patta of Anakapalle belongs to Karri Venkanna. It is 1 acre 20 cents. The rent per acre is Rs. 7. In the year 1935, he purchased the lands for Rs. 1,000. There is a plot of land nine acres in extent in Nakkapalle Thana, the rent being Rs. 22-10-1. Nunna Mangalu purchased it in 1937 for Rs. 2,200. In 1937, Appala Ayyanna purchased Bhimavaram land bearing an assessment of Rs. 18-10-0 for Rs. 1,000.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Did he purchase it for cash? Or was it adjusted towards arrears?

A.—It would be known if the accounts are referred to. In 1937, Mekala Ramamurthi purchased 9 acres of dry land bearing a rent of Re. 0-8-0 for Rs. 2,000.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Are the prices of lands and pattas low or high?

A.—They are higher than in 1933. From 1906 to 1929 the prices had been of a very high rate. For three years from 1929, the prices fell. Now, they are gradually rising again.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Have the prices come to the rate of 1929?

A.—No.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Are there no disputes in your estate between the zamindar and the ryots?

A.—No. There are only a few civil suits. I am not familiar with China Ravupalle. There may be a few suits other than those for arrears of rent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How many crops do the ryots grow in the block on the other side of the canal in Anakapalle taluk?

A.—Every year, they grow three crops. They have plenty of water (supply). So far as I know, there has been no failure of crops. They raise ragi and onions in the first-crop season. In wet lands, they grow ragi in the summer and subsequently paddy. By December, it would be over. In January, they again sow gingelly. If sugarcane is grown, it would be a single crop for the year.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What would be the rate of assessment for Government lands on which sugarcane is grown?

A.—It would be Rs. 18 for land cultivated with sugarcane. There are combined rates.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Do you charge for the second-crop?

A.—The rent they (the ryots) pay is accepted and no enhancement is made.

Q.—In Gujaratipet, the rent seems to have been enhanced. Do you know that?

A.—I do not know. It is an Agraharam.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Will there not be scarcity of water, if as reported three crops are grown in the khandam (block) inside the tank?

A.—No.

Q.—Have the ryots at any time complained of the rates being high and asked for their reduction?

A.—No. They make representations to the Diwan. But, I do not know.



Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Are there lands which are inundated by the stream in floods and get silted up with sand?

A.—No. Remission is granted, if the land is silted up. The Diwan does that.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—What is the source of water-supply for three-crop lands?

A.—The canal water-supply lasts from July to January. There would be river-water for two crops. For one crop alone, the ryots get water from wells dug by themselves. It is not by river-water, but by the drainage-water that the cultivation is done.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—So, the gingelly crop would pull on without water?

A.—Yes. That crop does not need much water. If watered twice, it would give the full yield. Watering the crop once when it is blossoming and for a second time subsequently would be enough.

Q.—Has every ryot a well?

A.—Yes, in good lands where there is flow of water.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Is there a village by name Kantepudi?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How was the rent collected for that village in 1887?

A.—I do not know it.

Q.—Are there old accounts of your estate, from the permanent settlement prior to 1908?

A.—We have athukubadi, etc., accounts and D.C.B. accounts.

Q.—Whereas in 1847 for the whole village, the rent was less than Rs. 1,544, it is reported to be so high as Rs. 1,800 now. Have you got any grounds to say that rents have not been enhanced in the alleged manner?

A.—There are accounts and we shall file them. There are records to show that rents have never been high from the time prior to the Estates Land Act.

Q.—What are the rivers that flow in your estate?

A.—There is the Sarada stream in Anakapalle. There is the Varaha stream in Munagapaka. It flows through Sarvasiddhi taluk also. The Thandava stream touches Godicherla.

Q.—The ryots complain that the stream channels have not been repaired. Are these channels in full repairs?

A.—All these channels are without any defect of water-supply.

Q.—How much expenditure is incurred on repairs?

A.—The expenditure ranges from 25 to 30 thousands of rupees.

Q.—In whom did the ownership of land vest prior to the Estates Land Act?

A.—It has never vested in the ryot. It belongs to the zamindar alone. But one ryot is not dispossessed (of the land) and another placed in possession of it.

Q.—When did your zamindar get it (the estate)?

A.—He got it in January 1928 by reversionary right. Prior to that, the estate belonged to the Rani of Burdwan. Prior to that, Rani Lady Gajapathi Rao was the zamindarini.

Q.—Do you not know when this estate came into existence?

A.—I have only hearsay information on the point. I do not know it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You said that a site was granted to Mr. Medapati Sreeramulu Nayudu for the construction of a house and that subsequently a suit was filed in that connexion. Can you say anything about that matter?

A.—The gentleman started "alignment" (alienation) instead of house construction. He began selling it (the land granted for house construction) to others. The Estate authorities have taken action against him.



Witness No. 72.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Vallabhajyosyula Venkatanarayana, son of Narayanappa, aged 50 years, cultivator, Koorada village, Koorada Kondayyavalasa.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How many villages?

A.—Two villages, Koorada and Kondayyavalasa. She got them from her ancestors. From the time I came of age these have stood in that (zamindarini's) name. An income of Rs. 1,800 is derived from these villages.

Q.—How many ryots are there?

A.—There are 60 ryots in Koorada village both wet and dry lands.

Q.—How many acres of land is there?

A.—Koorada has about 350 acres of land and Kondayyavalasa 400 acres. In Kondayyavalasa village, there may be about 80 ryots. I am a ryot of Koorada village.

Q.—What is it you have come to say?

A.—Our tanks have had no repairs. There are small tanks in Kondayyavalasa village. These too have no repairs. Two annas per acre per head has been charged for repairs. But no repairs have been effected. There is a hill stream flowing thereto (Kondayyavalasa). No bund has been constructed for it. We had petitioned the Collector. He got it inspected and ordered the repairs to be effected. But these have not been done. We again submitted another petition in 1937. It is pending. A big poramboke land has been leased out to a big sowcar and the channel in the tank also has been given over to him. We have absolutely no water-supply. In spite of this, it was given over to him. The wet rate is Rs. 10. For dry, too, it is ten rupees. I own about five or six acres of land. It is all wet land. I have no dry land. I have fallen into arrears of rent. Because no repairs have been effected, all of us, ryots have joined together and got the repairs effected. We got repaired the bunds washed away in the hurricane of 1923. As the money spent by us in that connexion was not paid (to us), we have withheld payment of the rent. I have not paid the rent for the last four or five years. Our zamindarini is at Vizagapatam.

Q.—Are there other disputes?

A.—There are none. Repairs are meagre. There are no other disputes.

Q.—What is the difference between the rates of Government lands and your rates? What lands are there adjoining yours?

A.—There are the Vizianagram estate lands by the side of our lands. Our land-rates are higher than those of the Vizianagram estate lands.

Witness No. 73.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Karri Narasinga Rao, son of Yarakayya, aged 40 years, goldsmith, Nallapalli village, Srungavarapukota taluk.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the matter?

A.—A bund was constructed fifty years ago near Mukundapuram village. The population of the villages is about 25,000. The wet and dry lands come to about 20,000 acres. The rent paid to the Maharaja comes to about Rs. 40,000. There used to be a channel of the Sarada stream fifty years ago. The channel got silted up. No repairs were effected subsequently. Every year during the past fifty years thousands of mahazars (memorials) had been submitted, but no repairs have been effected. We have petitioned the Estate Collector. (Presents copies.) I have 150 acres of land. The rates range from one rupee to five rupees, from four rupees to six rupees for dry and eight rupees to twenty rupees for wet under the Sarada river. Mukundapuram, Raivada, etc., villages, Devarapalli, Chandrammapeta, Kasipuram, Sitammapeta, Nagayyapeta, and Pedanandipalli—all these are villages dependent on the stream for water-supply. As the embankment has not been constructed during the past fifty years, all the middle-aged people (of the said villages) have left for Rangoon and Natal as labourers and have been sending some money to their families here. Three to four thousands of them have gone over from these twenty villages. They have been sending the rent due to the Maharaja from there. If the river embankment is constructed, it would provide livelihood for twenty-five thousands of people more. In 1902, the Maharaja had the villages surveyed by the Government. The influential ryot happens to have the dry rate from rupees one



to five. The rate of the lands under the tank (ayacut) ranges from eight to fourteen rupees. High rates have fallen to the lot of poor ryots. They are not educated enough to urge the revision of the rates. They have been asking for it. Meanwhile as the popular Government has come in, we are making the request. Since we are seriously handicapped on account of quit-rent and joint pattas, we request that a resurvey may be effected, joint holdings split up and a separate patta assigned to each ryot in respect of his own holding. The Maharaja has filed a suit against us—even against persons who regularly pay the rent. A single ryot is made to pay the whole rent. It is highly necessary that the rent should be collected from the person from whom it is due. They (the Estate authorities) are collecting Re. 1-4-0 per cart-load of timber for agricultural purposes. It would be a facility if the levy is not made and it is given free of charge for agricultural purposes. It comes to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 for fuel for a village which may be properly collected. The ryots do not complain of this. The timber which suffices for agricultural implements is available in the forest. We request that it may be granted free.

Witness No. 74.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kilaparti Suryanarayana, son of Ramu Nayudu, aged 45 years, cultivation, Pothanapalle village, Srungavarapukota taluk, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I hold a patta for 26 acres and odd of wet land and 22 acres of dry land, paying a rent of Rs. 360. As these lands have no water-supply and as the bund of the stream is breached, the crops have failed. The Collector has inspected these. The bund of the stream was breached in 1923. The District Collector wanted us to submit a petition in 'Muchchavaka' (with a twelve-annas stamp affixed?) from, which we did. The re-settlement was effected in 1928. Sambayya under the control of the Collector made the inspection. In 1932, we had once again put in a petition. The Collector personally made the inspection. In 1933, he issued an order. The order runs to the effect that the bund to the stream should be constructed. He told us that after the construction of the bund, facilities would be provided for us and the rents reduced. We submitted the petition when Mr. M. Narasimha Pantulu was the Collector. - But no good was done. On account of arrears to Government, the whole village passed into the hands of the sowcars. We have no money. Recently I lost a patta land. The crops having failed, we have become indebted. The sowcars brought them to auction and took possession of them in adjustment of their dues. A plot of land, 13 acres and 50 cents in extent was disposed of for a sum of Rs. 400. It used to yield ten garces of produce. Each acre sells at Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. The beriz of our village comes to Rs. 4,000. A decree has been passed (files a copy). The water of this stream embankment irrigates ten villages. Of late A B jamabandi was held in Lakkavarapukota village. Chilakalagadda was constructed by Mr. Irwin. It was washed away.

Q.—Put in a petition once again and see what action is going to be taken?

A.—We petitioned our Minister also, I mean Mr. Viswanatham Pantulu. No good has been done to us. Permission used to be granted free of charges for the removal of a cart-load of twigs, etc., for the purpose of fencing cotton crops and covering hay stacks. They (the estate) have been charging a fee for it since 1902. The whole forest has been included in the reserve. It extends from Punyagiri to Anantagiri. We were allowed formerly to remove materials from the forest for a month during the year. Now we are not allowed to remove even a single bamboo for ploughing purposes on the eve of the new year. If four cart-loads of petty fence-wood and of timber for plough-making are granted free of charge, we shall be able to live.

Witness No. 75.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pydi Varahalu, son of Papayya, cultivation, Fareedpeta village, (Perlavari estate).

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Have you written down here the points which you are now going to represent?

A.—Yes. (Files a petition.)



Q.—You please speak on matters relating to the papers. We shall see afterwards as for the rest?

A.—The receipts pertain to pattas Nos. 4 and 5. No. 4 pertains to Fareedpeta. The rent used to be Rs. 90. After the village was surveyed, it became Rs. 238-12-6. For No. 5 patta, the rent used to be Rs. 38. The land belonged to two brothers. It was therefore split up into two parts after the village was surveyed. (Filed beriz collection book.) In this patta, the rate for dry land is Rs. 11 and for wet land, it is Rs. 16. Patta No. 17 pertains to Muddala village. There are twenty-six joint-holders of this patta. Four (only) of them used to pay the rent in respect of it. They took an agreement for a rent of Rs. 28. They (the estate) have now got the boundaries so fixed that the share of rent for each person comes to Rs. 26. They have retained 200 acres of land as waste land. They got these plots auctioned as they could not get Rs. 1,300. Among these 26 persons, a ryot in a certain village happens to have four sons. A written agreement has been obtained afresh for Rs. 20 from one of those four brothers. Others who may be in a similar position are being coerced to do likewise. So far, ten persons have executed such agreements and there are still sixteen more. Ponnada, Shermuhammadpuram and Budumoor villages have passed from Achanma into the hands of Jagga Rao Garu who wrote a will in favour of this son. He, however, gave it to Mr. Bhanoji Rao subsequently. One-half of it was given to Avillavaru. Mr. Viswanatham Pantulu is having the work done by managers. Mr. Jaggarayanam has arranged for the construction of bunds one at Budumoor and another at Shermuhammadpuram. A European gentleman was brought in at the time of survey. He used to say that the estimate was under preparation and measurements were being taken. About 200 acres of land in Ponnada and Bontalakodur villages submerged in the river-bed. Not even a pie was reduced in the rent. (Full) rents are being demanded. They (the ryots) are unable to pay them. The amin collected rents by beating them. A suit has been instituted and it has been adjourned to the 18th. It is not known what the result of the suit is going to be. In 1923, there was a big hurricane and the tank-bund receded inwards. No repairs have so far been effected. It is only when there are bunds, that crops grow properly. Thirty years ago, in anticipation of the enactment of the Estates Land Act Bill, the estate obtained lease-deeds (muchilika) of five years' validity from ryots at enhanced rents.

Q.—What is it you want?

A.—We gave it in writing. A land was granted in Ponnada village in the name of Gandikota Venkamma. The tank was refused to it. We have submitted two or three petitions and withheld the payment of rent which was fixed at the wet rate. They have threatened us with legal proceedings in the event of our failure to pay the rent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have ten acres.

Q.—You give it to a ryot on lease. Is it not?

A.—I do cultivation personally.

Q.—Do they sell lands at any time in your village?

A.—One who is poor cannot but sell.

Q.—What is the wet rate?

A.—When the price of the groundnut was high, say at Rs. 80 or 90, the ryot used to have money. People were purchasing wet land at Rs. 200 per acre in such times. Now it is less than not more than Rs. 150 or Rs. 125. Dry land in which groundnut is grown is purchased likewise.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Are not the channels in the estate being repaired?

A.—There are only tanks and no channels in the estate. There are absolutely no repairs to the tanks. When there is rainfall, water flows from all sides.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you grow tobacco?

A.—That tobacco does not burn well. Considerable amount of fire (literally one viss) is required for a half-viss of tobacco.

Q.—What is the price of land in which chillies are grown?

A.—Rs. 200 per acre.

Q.—What is the rent?

A.—Rs. 18 per acre.

Witness No. 76.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. V. V. Subbarayudu, son of V. Subbarayudu, inamdar, Taruva agraaharam, Viravilli taluk.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—To which estate do you belong?

A.—I belong to Jayapuram estate. We pay kattubadi jodi.



Q.—What have you to say ?

A.—We never anticipated the inam legislation. I am the senior proprietor and the major aghaharamdar. Mr. Munuswami Nayudu said he would bring in some amendments. He dispensed with them (those amendments) and brought in some clauses (C, D, etc.). This he did secretly. We have not heard then. In the Select Committee the Planters' Association objected saying that the issue was not within the scope of the proposed legislation. Being afraid that the legislation would be extended to whole inam villages, we ventilated all our grievances. We waited on Lord Stanley in deputation. (He spoke in English for sometime. Afterwards again speaking in Telugu.) Politically we have no dispute. Even when considered from the legal standpoint there is no right for the occupancy ryot in the land. As the Estates Land Act does not apply to inams according to the Privy Council's judgment, I have purchased 1/16 visam for Rs. 2,500. We have purchased (the aghaharam) at very exorbitant prices. I have no survey experience. The 'visam' is not counted in acres here. The 'visam' of land does not exist at one place. (He continued in English afterwards.)

Witness No. 77.

Vizagapatam.

13th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dadi Nookineedu, son of Nukayya, aged 35 years, cultivator, Rayaparajupeta, Viravilli taluk, Vizianagram estate.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How much land have you ?

A.—I have 4 acres. I am paying Rs. 22-8-0 per acre.

Q.—Do you say that it is excessive ?

A.—There are no repairs to the tank, nor are there repairs to the stream channel or to the land below the tank. The rate is very high, Sir.

Q.—How much yield do you get ?

A.—I get two puttis. This year I have not transplanted under the tank. The transplantation having been made under the channel the crop has withered away for want of water in the channel. It would be enough if the Government rate is introduced. We request that the repairs may be effected. There is no fresh water well in the village. There is no water to drink. All along, we have been drinking the water of a temporary well dug in the stream three miles away from the village. If a well is dug water is obtained at a depth of seven fathoms.

Taking evidence for the forenoon concluded at 11-15 a.m.

Witness No. 78.

Rajahmundry.

16th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dokka Ramabhadhrudu, son of Dokka Subbarayudu, aged 35 years, cultivator, Lankala Gannavaram village, Palivala tana, Pithapur estate.

I did not file a memorandum. My lands are in Lankala Gannavaram village. The extent of wet land is 10 acres and that of dry land is 6 acres. The following extent of land was inundated by the river in 1916 which was completely washed off by 1926. The extent of land belongs to Lankala Gannavaram, patta No. 1, 8-1, 1-6 acres, 6-6 acres in another number and 21;31 acres in No. 24. I was paying the taxes till 1933. After 1930 there was a fall in the prices of produce and there was also failure of crops and so I applied to the estate authorities to give me remission. After sending several petitions for relinquishment of the lands and releasing me I got a reply from the estate authorities. Afterwards they took, by force, my signature on a small piece of paper and had the relinquishment deed completed. The extent of the land was resilted up to an extent of 100 or 200 acres of land. I desisted from paying taxes. The broken piece of land became good and arable. I requested the authorities to grant me those lands again. The estate authorities gave me no reply though I submitted several petitions. I sent about twelve petitions. Mine is an island land. It is not in the middle of the river. It is called the edge land. As it was on the edge of the bank it was washed away by the stream. Twenty acres was washed away and lost by the stream. It was again increased to 100 acres by the river depositing silt during floods. The land was washed off by 1924 and the fall of the land was completed. Yet until 1933 I was paying the taxes as usual. I was paying the taxes with the hope that the river may deposit the silt at one



time or other in any year. Though the land was not under cultivation I used to transplant on the land. Nobody questioned me. I did not also object. I asked for remission in 1937. I have no copies of the petitions with me. Because I executed a relinquishment deed I was not given the lands again. In 1933 the Government spent 2 lakhs of rupees and built a revetment backing to the stream. In 1933 the land was again resilted by the grace of God. It had increased to 200 acres. In such cases the Government show sympathy and give the lands to the former holders alone.

To questions put by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig the witness said: I paid taxes even after relinquishing. Taxes will not be collected in the Government. I sent petitions for remission of taxes. I applied for remission after they refused to give me the lands. No remission was granted. Lands also were not given. They must give it out of sympathy alone. I have no sort of right. I have no receipts with me. I did not get them. I shall search for them and find out. I shall file them if I find them out. The witness filed a copy of his petition. The relinquishment deed was not given by me willingly but it was created. The estate authorities intimated to me that they have accepted my request for relinquishment. They did not give me that land though they were collecting tax. I filed a suit in the Court of the Deputy Collector. It is in a civil suit now. The estate filed a suit against me. The Collector decided that a petition in case of a relinquishment is not valid. I am filing a copy of the judgment and its patta. There is the custom of giving the lands silted again after they are washed away once. The Government is giving like that. I hear that the estate authorities also give likewise. I do not know it exactly. We have no right but it is the custom to give them. Though the land was broken and washed away in 1930 I was paying the taxes till 1933. I did so with the hope that if it is resilted I would be given the lands again. When they did not grant me the lands I applied for remission with the hope of getting it. The receipts are not with me. The accounts of the estate bear witness to the same. Usually the munsifs grant the receipts. I have not got the receipts with me. I shall see and if I secure them I shall file.

There is a kist of Rs. 20 per acre in Lankala Gannavaram. Because it is sandy soil, the crop is not even sufficient to pay the tax. When the crop began to be very bad in my lands I planted a mango garden. There are 200 mango trees. For dry land it is Rs. 7. Unless the tax is reduced it will not be profitable. There are so many kinds of expenses. The taxes are high in the village of Old Gannavaram. It is near the aqueduct. It is five years since I planted the mango garden. It is beginning to flower this year. He filed a document in support of his statement.

Mine is dry land on the edge of the Godavari river. I am requesting the Government to reduce the taxes. Up till now I had been paying Rs. 20 per acre. When the crops failed I applied for remission. But no remission was granted. The lands were attached several times for default in the payment of taxes. These lands were in our possession from the time of our fathers. When we did not pay the taxes owing to receipt of no produce (అమరకం) from the fields the lands were used to be attached. We used to pay the kists by selling the produce received from other lands. Attachments are a matter of frequent occurrence in our village.

Every year there will be five or six heaps of silt deposited. Taxes will be in arrears. Attachments are often made. I am paying the taxes regularly after planting the mango trees. There are no arrears. I do not remember if the produce in the land was attached before plantation of the mango garden.

Usually horsegram is sown in those lands. Green grass grows. We give away the grass for mowing. After planting the mango trees I was paying Rs. 120 at the rate of Rs. 20 per acre for these six acres. There is still arrears in this year in spite of the heavy crops. But there is no attachment brought as yet. They are attaching other properties if there are arrears. Other incomes are attached.

The Government is collecting Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 for the adjacent lands. There is no other estate at all near my village excepting Pittapur. There are Government lands one and a half to two miles away from my fields. The Government lands are assessed at Rs. 5 or Rs. 6. My estate authorities are not giving pattas for our lands regularly. There are many joint pattas. In spite of the applications of many, joint pattas are not separated. We are three joint pattadars for our lands. Separate pattas were not granted though we applied several times. At last we issued a lawyer notice. They gave a reply to that after six months. I gave the notice on 24th February 1937. (Notice was exhibited.) The vakil told us that he received a reply that the pattas would be separated if a fee of Re. 1 per acre on the patta land is paid. Rupee 1 is to be spent per each acre for separation of pattas. We have to pay an amount of Rs. 20 for the 20 acres. After paying the amount they said they would consider. Six months elapsed before this reply was given. Our vakil is Sri Kanuru Someswara Rao. He has left for Madras four or five months back. The reply was received a month before. His clerk told me this news.



I have got nine acres of patta land. I am paying a tax of Rs. 70 for this. I am not cultivating. There is an arrear of Rs. 900 and odd. It is under a joint patta. The estate authorities auctioned it. They collected from our family though the default was committed by some one else. In the sale, the estate authorities bid for the lands and had them. Though the land was in our patta we never enjoyed it. They auctioned our lands and collected about Rs. 800 and odd. These are the difficulties of having joint pattas. We beg to submit for your consideration. Though not in our possession and enjoyment the estate authorities wrote the accounts in our name and since it was in a joint patta they collected. They collected in about 1935. Some kept quiet. They could do nothing. We filed three suits in the Rajahmundry Deputy Collector's Court. The karnam gave evidence on our behalf. The Deputy Collector decided that there was liability on joint pattas. They collected accordingly. The papers and judgments connected with this suit are not with me. They are with my wakil.

Patta land No. 24-2 in Lankala Gannavaram is in the possession of the conservancy department. Here 5.14 acres had been washed away by the river. It was before 1916. The land again silted up in extent from 1933. We had been paying the taxes. The tax on Government lands came down but we had been paying in entirety. There is not much tax. Only 5 annas per acre. I did not get the receipts. Estate karnam has to issue the receipts. It is he that collects. They collect the taxes but no receipts are given.

Grass grows in the island land. We were objected from cutting the grass. The land is not in our possession. It is in the possession of the estate. For 34 years we were never in possession of it. Livestock was not allowed to graze there. They were not allowed to enter even.

We are paying quit-rent to the Government. We give 5 annas per acre. I do not know to whom the karnam gives the jodi quit-rent collected for inam lands.

Questioned by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapur the witness stated: We are paying Government water-rate in Old Gannavaram village. Water-rate was not enhanced of late. I do not know if it had been enhanced after 1887. For the last 35 years the tax was not enhanced. It was not enhanced as far as my knowledge goes. I do not know when they granted pattas for these lands. I do not personally know that the estate has enhanced the tax of late by 2 annas but since some filed suits I am saying from hearsay. I am giving evidence on behalf of the estate villages ryots. My mango garden has begun to bear fruit. Six acres of land. I do not know what rents I was paying before and what rents I am paying now. But I know that there was no change. There used to be arrears. This year the tax is in arrears. Till that there was no arrears at all.

We sent a petition to the Collector in regard to the lands of Lankala Gannavaram. We petitioned to the estate also for reduction of kists. We had just complained for petitioning. There are no copies here.

I am paying Rs. 150, other taxes. Now there are 200 acres in auction. I was not given the old piece of land. There is a kist rate of Rs. 150 per acre for some ryotwari lands. I do not know how the seri lands and island lands were assessed at.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, the witness said: My father is not alive. My brother was looking after the lands. It is an year since my brother also is dead. From that time I had been looking after them.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, the witness said: I do not know the custom in the case of lands washed away by the stream in our parts. The estate authorities said that since we had given them a relinquishment deed they can do as they like the land that was deposited and increased in area afterwards. There are 80 acres. They give permission for cutting dubbu grass if requested. There is no other crop except horsegram and dubbu grass. I do not know what the estate authorities have done with the land now increased.

Questioned by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said: I am working as clerk under the Local Fund Overseer. I am working in Razole. I had been working for the last seven or eight years.

Witness No. 79.

Rajahmundry.

16th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dulla Venkata Bhaskara Ramadoss, son of Papa Rao, aged 30 years, cultivator, Indukurpet, Rampa Chodavaram limits under Ravulanka Mokhasa.

Our village is in the mokhasa of Kondamodula Ramireddi. He is living in Gullampudi.

I have got 100 acres of land. Wet and dry together. Wet is 20 acres and dry is 78 acres. All is in one village. There is a pond for the village. There are walls round the



village. More tax is collected than before. It is Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 for wet land. The Government granted the mokhasa after the Rampa Pituri in 1801 (copy of the mokhasa grant was filed). Then Rs. 650 to Rs. 668 was collected. Now Rs. 930 is collected. The extent of 211 acres granted then is the same even now. It can be ascertained from the chitta. Then they collected Rs. 668-10-0. Now Rs. 930 is collected. The land does not seem to have increased in extent. (A copy of the chitta was filed.) They collected up to Rs. 980 in 1915. They are taxing the wet lands at from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10-8-0. The tax on dry lands varies from 8 annas to Rs. 3 or Rs. 4. The rate on our lands is high. The kist on the wet lands adjacent to our village is Rs. 4 or Rs. 4-8-0. For dry land it is from 8 annas to Rs. 2. They are not lands yielding much. There are many arrears. Auctioning is common. There are three tanks round my village. Hill streams are the sources of supply for these tanks. The tank is never repaired. The banks have been breached. The tank is silted. No water is retained. There is no cultivation. (He produced a photo of the tank with its breach and explained the photo.) It is sixteen years since the breach was affected. There are 40 acres of land under this tank. I have got Government inam lands in that village. I am paying the quit-rent. Though we sent petitions for getting repairs done to the tank the repairs were not carried out up till now. There is no endorsement on the petitions. Once a reply was given that if one-fourth of the ayacut rate was given the repairs would be done. In 1934 we gave it. I am paying the taxes regularly. There used to be and are some arrears. The breach was repaired but last year a part of our village was washed away by floods. The repairs are not carried out well. I am filing a report of the revenue inspector in regard to the state of these tanks. The Court of Wards got the tanks repaired in 1907 to 1910 when the tanks were not in repairs. In 1926 there was a breach. It is still there. There is kist on pattas.

In the forest, near by, there are mango trees and tamarind trees. The villagers used to enjoy the fruits of the trees freely. They were enjoying like this for a long time. Pattas were granted from 1930 with new conditions. We have appealed in the court. Still it is in appeal stage only. It is in the High Court. The villagers filed an appeal in the High Court. In the lower Court the judgment was in favour of the mokhasadar. Our cases are all dealt with by the Collector. There was also a criminal case. Fine was imposed in that. This is also in appeal. We had rights in those trees when the Court of Wards was in charge of the properties in fasli 1317.

The Collector endorsed that the Estates Land Act does not apply to this. I am filing the Collector's order.

Many people of our village are thinking of leaving the lands and migrating. There are Koyas, Kapus and hill tribes in our village. The Koyas cannot by law purchase or sell the lands. They must do so with the Collector's permission. It has been decided that the Estates Land Act does not apply to the Agency. Mokhasadar grants pattas only to those whom he likes. He is not granting to all. It is his will. Pattas are being transferred in Godavari Agency. My village is twelve miles from Chodavaram, eight miles from Gokavaram. There are attachments according to the Estates Land Act. They are being filed as original suits. There is no amaiakam in the land. No proper cultivation.

The Estates Land Act should apply to our villages. I had been fighting for this from 1928. Papers are in the Court.

Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, the witness said : There is no habit of giving receipts for taxes paid. The tax paid for one fasli is accounted for in another fasli. Afterwards auction is effected. The livestock useful in cultivation is attached. No repairs to the tank. The lands are covered with sand owing to a breach.

I am filing the sanad granted by the Government at the time of grant of the mokhasa. They filed a criminal suit in the case of the trees. There was fighting also.

Our tanks require repairs. The Estates Land Act should apply to us. The repairing of the tanks must be in the hands of the Government. When the Court of Wards was in charge repairs were made.

No remissions are granted in our village. No grant of remission in spite of petitions.

The magistrates are in charge of the civil and criminal jurisdiction in our agency. There is no justice meted out. It is like seeing a tiger (laughter) to approach him.

We have to serve them when officials come. They take unremunerated service. They make us carry bundles, etc. Coolie is not properly paid. If we wait in the night they give us something, if not, they do not. All have to work under the forest guards for seven or eight days in the year for laying roads in the forest. There is no remuneration for this. No less than ten people would be going. Forest is three miles away from my village.

There is a village of the Pittapur Estate by the side of our estate. For wet there is a rate of Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 and Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 for dry in the village. In my village it is more. It is even Rs. 10. In 1932 we were asked to vacate the lands. There was rioting and fighting with each other. There was a case. A fine of Rs. 150 was imposed in that.



To questions put by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said: In our village the price of wet land is Rs. 130 to Rs. 150 and that of dry land is from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60.

This free service was in vogue for a long time. We have to give this service to any Government officer that comes.

To questions put by the Chairman, the witness said: In our village there are Koyas, hill tribes and Kammaras. They are called Ududu Kammaras. It is these people that prepare the implements of agriculture. All live at the same place. Free service is given to the mokhasadar also. Giving of curries, etc., and carrying of samans, etc.

They raise quarrels in the forest on and often. They insist upon obtaining chits. These licence chits cost from 2 annas to 6 annas. We have to take chit sufficient for our needs. I have got 18 acres of land in the Pittapur Estate. There is no necessity of taking a chit if we get wood for agricultural implements from the forests belonging to Pittapur Estate or Government.

Witness No. 80.

Rajahmundry.

16th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mogali Ramamurthi, son of Reddayya, aged 45 years, cultivator, Gollaprolu.

Ours is Gollaprolu Estate. The sister-in-law of Pittapur adopted a boy. In our estate the taxes are very high. There are three villages in our estate—Gollaprolu, Bhogapuram, Isakapalli villages.

The income of our estate before 1869 was Rs. 33,462-2-9. Of this Gollaprolu, Rs. 7,000, Bhogapuram, Rs. 17,000 and Isakapalli, Rs. 10,000.

The collections on 24th November 1937 were Rs. 58,120.

Taxes have increased. Now in 68 years there is so much increase. Land has decreased. For railways and local board roads an extent of about 150 acres was acquired. The remuneration for that extent was received by the estate authorities. I do not remember the laying of the railway line but it is about forty years since it was laid. Land did not increase. It has dwindled by 150 acres now than before.

In Gollaprolu there is an extent of 16,000 acres of wet land and 10,000 acres of dry land. In other villages also it is in the same scale. There is a tank in Isakapalli. Before the Estates Land Act was passed we used to repair it by digging once in four years jointly by turns. Two or three thousand was spent. Pattas and muchilikas were not being granted before 1908. Even after the advent of the Estates Land Act muchilikas were not regularly granted. Permanent pattas were in existence before. Now they are not granted like that. They are granted only once in three years. They are given once in five years also. Previously tirvai (vantu-vair) system was in vogue. Some gentlemen were selected for collecting. They were paid Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 by the villagers. For each village Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 was collected. The panchayatdars were given back. These panchayatdars used to keep the accounts and divide the amount. They used to decide what we had to pay on our lands and execute the pattas in the names of the several people. They used to collect. They used to execute muchilikas for five or six years. They were having them renewed. There was no cowles system. For the land in patta No. 34 in Bhogapuram Rs. 200 was given in 1882. By 1911 an amount of Rs. 318 was collected. (He filed a comparative statement giving details of enhancement of tax.) The extent of land did not increase it can be seen from the statement. (The Rajah Saheb of Mirzapur wanted the comparative statement for perusal). Taxes are high. Gollaprolu was surveyed a portion only. We paid the money. The jirayati right of Adapa Kamaraju was brought by the Raja himself in auction and sustained a loss of Rs. 5. I am saying that the taxes are heavy. Answering the Rajah Saheb: No nazrana. Ryots pay a private fee of Rs. 10. We are cultivating with the hope of getting at least Rs. 90 for Rs. 100. Money-lenders got possession of many lands. Within the last ten years, the cost of land fell from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 600 and Penukonda Tirupatayya became an insolvent. Periseti Veeraswami had 100 acres of land. Gonela Ramamurthy had 500. The whole fell into the hands of the money-lender. Six hundred acres of Perumalla Nayudu also was lost. These were lost because the taxes were high and the prices fell.

In reply to questions by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: We are paying taxes up to Rs. 18 and Rs. 20. The kists for Government lands is Rs. 2, Rs. 3, Rs. 4. In Sitanagaram of Pittapur Estate we get an income of Rs. 3, Rs. 4, or Rs. 5 per acre. We are paying Rs. 25, Rs. 26 or Rs. 30. Ryots of my village cultivate it. Sitanagaram is the name of the land (showed survey plan). Bhogapuram was not surveyed. No tanks. We sent petitions about the repairs to the canals. The repairs not being carried out in time the



canals are silted. The village is being flooded with water when there is no necessity. Last year also we had floods. We had three good harvests in ten years. We sent petitions to the Diwan and Collector about the sand-silts. One ryot filed a suit also. There is only giving but no repairs. Wet is not cultivable. A suit about a gorru of land had to go to the High Court. It is about 40 acres. Small repairs were made in reply to our petitions. But no use.

Joint pattas must be separated. For the arrears of Alliparla Chandrayya of Bhogapuram suits were filed against joint pattadars. Taxes are high in the estate and they must be reduced. For the last ten years we had neither dry nor wet harvests. When there are no crops remission should be given. There are no turns for tanks.

The estate authorities filed suits about the land used as public latrine. Appeal was dismissed. They said that it is their own. It had been common to the village for three or four generations. This tussle arose about four or five months back. The estate is leasing out lands situate on the margins of local fund roads. The district board is claiming the land as theirs. There are pakhana accounts. Four or five acres of cremation ground was claimed as theirs.

Answering Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja: We had the surveying done. The Government got it done and we paid for it. Collection of taxes before receipt of crops is felt a hardship. How is it now? It is being now collected in October, November and December. We can pay them from the end of December. The management of giving water to ryot must rest with the Government. The zamindar is now exercising that right. The right of water distribution is claimed by him. The zamindar has got no own lands under the tanks.

Replying to the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: Taxes were not enhanced after the survey. Nor were they reduced. None purchased wet land. It may be worth about Rs. 100, Rs. 150, Rs. 175. The maximum rent is Rs. 30. No one buys it as it is useless. Minimum is Rs. 8, Rs. 10, Rs. 12. The rate is high for sandy land.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: There is Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 between Chebrole and ours on Mandadi. There is no difference between wet and dry. I am paying the zamindar since my birth. I do not know before the Act. There are 40 acres. My father used to pay Rs. 400. I am paying Rs. 500 (25 acres). No remission was granted. We did not hide the crops. We are paying taxes. Vantuvari system—Total for village, Rupees 1,000. Over that Rs. 5,000 and the pattadar is given for Rs. 100 or Rs. 150. This was before the Estates Land Act. For leaders or panchayatdars, Rs. 100 is given. They ask us to agree. If more is wanted they ask us to change lands. There used to be loss in the distribution. There was a change of lands also. This was until the advent of the Act. I do not know the state before. There was a change in my remembrance. We occupied Balachandrapuram dry land. It is 25 years past. I have my father and brother. No survey for the other two villages. Pusselu measure is in vogue.

Witness No. 81.

Rajahmundry.

16th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chintalapati Seshagiri Rao, son of Venkatasuryaprakasam, aged 38 years, Chintalapadu vontu or Muktyalu estate, Nandigam taluk, Kistna district.

I am a ryot. I have 35 acres of land. My estate land is dry. Land is under five tanks. In Nandigama there is a canal. Of this one-third is estate land and two-thirds is Government. There is wet land in the tank ayacut. Rates are high. The Government had a survey of it in 1860. Before that it was in the possession of the Government. In 1866 it was handed over to them; altogether 21 villages. On all the four sides there are Government villages. Rates, maximum Rs. 2-6-0 and minimum Rs. 1-2-0; to them it is from 12 annas to Rs. 3 to Rs. 6. That which is assessed at 12 annas is quite useless for cultivation. Cultivable lands are under Rs. 6 rate.

Fasli.	Kist.	Extent.			
		Khattu.	Visa.	Barlu.	
Pendvala Peda Meah Sahib Buda Meah Sahib.					
1288-1292 .. .. .	61 12 9	1	1	6	
1308-1312 .. .. .	80 10 10	1	1	3	
1316-1345 .. .. .	113 2 0	1	3	3	
Extent of land means one and the same land.					
One khattu is equal to 12.80 acres.					
Vellanki Obulu Reddi's patta—					
1298-1302 .. .. .	158 2 4	6	5	15	
1303-1307 .. .. .	173 13 11	6	12	94	
1308-1312 .. .. .	177 3 2	6	12	84	
1313-1317 .. .. .	230 3 8	79.15 acres as per survey.			



Fasli.				Kist.	Extent.		
					Khattu.	Visa.	Barlu.
Chintalapadu.							
Chintodu Paramayya—							
1297 khattu	..	..	..	1 1 4	18	2	6
1316 (From)	for the same extent			..	30	15	6
On the whole village	..	..	..	1297	4,979	8	3
				1345	9,392	2	4
Muppada.							
1311	..	..	..	..	5,551	2	10
1312	..	..	..	..	6,703	13	13
Peddavaram.							
1316	..	..	..	..	5,100	3	8
1332	..	..	..	..	6,564	4	2
Chintalapadu.							
1276	..	..	..	..	4,758	12	6
1277	..	..	..	..	4,958	2	7
1278	..	..	..	..	5,157	8	8

The income from the 21 villages shows a similar increase. At the time of the Government survey in 1860 every village had its own village sites, public paths, common land, polymeras, madugus, cremation grounds, etc. Now they are not to be seen. I do not know if they have encroached them. The witness filed a copy of the statement (jhadtha) from the karaman's. The original is sent to the zamindar. It pertains to fasli 1297. There is no signature of the zamindar on it. No signature of the karnam. We have no ryots association in our village. There is a Congress Committee. I have seen all villages in order to enquire. Nowhere there are common lands.

*House-sites.*—Some of the lands adjacent to the village belong to the ryots and some to the zamindar. Permission is required for extension. If the ryot builds a house he has to pay nazrana. When built without permission they went to the High Court and had it felled down. They collected Rs. 400 per acre. Of an extent of 9.75 acres, permission was granted only for 2 cents. No remission of tax. Document was executed. (Read a registered document and filed it.)

(Receipt for money received for having built a house without permission in Survey No. 32 of Muppada.)

(Filed orders of Sub-Collector on encroachment, dated 25th October 1913.)

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : None of the communal lands that were in the survey plan of 1860 are now to be seen. There is nothing in the present day accounts. They are with the zamindar. It is with the karnam, Anantayya. If written to, the zamindars will get them.

Filed the following documents :—

- (1) Collector's orders on the petition of a karnam for a fine levied on him for encroachment.
- (2) A receipt for a rupee collected from poor people.
- (3) Some receipts without signatures.
- (4) Receipts without patta number or fasli number.
- (5) Reply of the zamindar's pleader regarding receipts issued without signatures.
- (6) Printed receipts with no signatures.
- (7) White paper receipts even after notice.

There is land which fetches about Rs. 30,000 in our estate in the name of the Rani, under own cultivation account. In Pendyala there is about 700 acres. She had not got it before. It should not be like that. It may be granted to poor people. This is all land for which nazrana was paid. In Peddavaram 3,000 acres is forest. We have to go there for cane and fuel. In 1860 it was common to the whole village. Now we have to pay 8 annas, 9 annas and Rs. 2 for licence. They gave it to those whom they like. It must be handed over to the forest panchayat. In 1860 there were waste lands. They used to be common property. They were leased out thirty years back, in the names of clerks of the estate. All island lands are in the name of the Rani. Before twenty years they had no land under own cultivation account. He filed the village plan and receipts. There are five tanks and wet land in the estate. They do not give the water for the use of ryots but they use it for themselves. We did not apply for fear of consequences. Karnam of Pendyala took courage and filed a suit. The Public Works Department should get them repaired.



No repairs at all. There are two or three good tanks. The tank beds are not in a good state. They were leased out for dry cultivation. This year they were given for growing American tobacco.

In Peddavaram the black soil land belonging to Bellamkonda Jaggayya has been taken by the zamindar.

A canal was dug under the Muneru in Nandigama. In that one-third is zamindar's right and two-thirds Government's. It was dug from Pannavaram. The lands are Government. Water-tax is Rs. 20. For Government lands Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 is collected. If they like they give water. About this canal you may go through Board's P.W.C. No. 7888, dated 31st October 1866, Kistna Collector's report, dated 3rd October 1929, Kistna Collector's letter R.O.C./2 No. 2984, dated 4th December 1929, etc. Inhabitants of Ambalapeta Agraharam did not agree. The management should be given to the Public Works Department. The Rajah Sahib of Mirzapuram put many questions in the Assembly. The tax on the Government lands adjacent to ours is less.

(1) We can give one-sixth after deducting expenses as tax.

(2) The management of collection of taxes also must rest with the Government.

(3) Joint pattas must be separated though we applied to the Sub-Registrar nothing was done except issuing notice (filed a notice).

In reply to Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, he said: Land fetching an income of about Rs. 30,000 is under them. Originally it was not in their possession. Zamindar does not need it. I do not know about the grazing rights in the forest. I heard about it. No such high rates. No forest panchayats in zamindari villages. The rights in a canal are one-third zamindar's and two-thirds Government's. Water is Rajah's and land is Government's. Now they are collecting Rs. 20. For dry land the maximum rate is Rs. 2-12-0.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: No statement is prepared for high rates. If the estate authorities are summoned they can be procured. The increase in the total taxes is not due to cultivation of waste lands. No new pattas. No statement about new cowles. No tax should be levied on account of houses. When there is necessity for extension in the village it must be given free. Zamindar should have no right. The survey of 1860 was not brought into force. I do not know what they did. Settlement also was finished. We cannot prepare a statement of the common lands. Forests should not be controlled by the zamindar. The income derived on account of panchayats should not be the right of zamindar. It should be utilized for village purposes. It is better if the Government also gives it to the people. Three thousand acres is lying as waste land. Every year the lands under the tank are being given. We did not apply.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: There are no open letters on patta transfer application. We cannot know it unless we pay nazrana. They go direct to the zamindar from the registrar and we never receive them. No mamuls for karnams for transfers of pattas.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: Ryots need pay nothing to the zamindar. I do not know why they keep it in the background. If they like they give. No karnam's clique is there. We have the same rules as the Government. Because there is Government control. Zamindars cannot be seen by the people. I have no appointment. I get my lands cultivated. The zamindar's land should be given to poor ryots—that is what I said. If you personally want to take lands what can I say. My land is not sufficient for me. I am not a socialist party man. Ryots' associations were in existence from 1927. My father was revenue officer in Muktyala Estate. He is 70 years old. The receipts now given pertain to Muppada. My father is 80 years old and his sight being bad has given up service. Two acres at Rs. 400 per acre. We sold it to the district board authorities. It may be in your time. Total, Rs. 1,600. It was done by private negotiations. Two thousand square yards or  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

Q.—You say that the zamindar should not interfere if houses are built on patta lands?

A.—I do not know that the Collector can acquire and give for house-sites. There zamindar should have no right to interfere even if we sell it to others. In 1860 there was 3,000 acres forest waste in Peddavaram. It is not in the plan. The land is in the name of the Rani. No cultivation. We get waste wood.

There are five tanks in the estate. Though there is cultivation no repairs were made. Water is sufficient for them.

About the increase in tax I cannot give out the cultivated extent of 1297 and 1345. I do not know. I do not know the order annulling the survey of 1860 as not binding after it is completed. In 1890 there was a survey of the estate. I do not know which



is in force. We filed no papers accepting the survey of 1890. In our village, lands are seldom leased out. We cannot say whether leasing out is for a high profit or due to inconvenience of cultivation. I did not file a statement that the zamindar occupied poramboke. I showed a particular case. Taxes were raised before the advent of the Estates Land Act and after it also. Patta for thirty years was granted before the Estates Land Act. They gave it knowing that the Estates Land Act would come into force. That was in force till 1345. The Act has given occupancy right. The rates of the lands in our village are dry, Rs. 150 and Rs. 100. No wet land. In other villages Rs. 400; Rs. 500 and Rs. 700 is the value of canal irrigated wet. Kist is Rs. 20; Rs. 10 and Rs. 6 also.

Witness No. 82.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Mohammad Meera, son of Badamia, business, President, Village Ryots' Association, Pendyala, Muktyala estate.**

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are you a ryot? A.—I had lands hitherto, seven or eight years ago. Now I have no lands. Since I am the president of the association, I am deputed to speak here.

Q.—Have you got anything in writing? A.—No. I have sent it already. We sent a copy of the petition to you by the registered post. The petition was addressed to the Collector.

Q.—What do you want to say now? A.—As there was no survey conducted in our estate, the ryots are feeling it very inconvenient. In that estate, for a four acres extent of land, cist is charged for six acres. If we complain their officers say that they can do nothing until the survey is conducted. So they are collecting rent for six acres. We wish that the Government should conduct the survey and grant pattas individually. According to the survey of 1860, there is a poramboke of 420 acres. We wish that the poramboke should be handed over to the panchayat according to the plan.

Q.—Is there no poramboke now? A.—There is no poramboke. But there are paths. They are threatening us that they would tax even for the river water. Rangavari cheruvu is in the middle of the village. It was granted on a patta for five years; and though it was not productive, they have locked the house in the name of his wife and belonging to her for the recovery of the rent. We request that porambokes like this should be handed over to the panchayats. There is a land by name Saidapuram adjacent to our lands. It was given as an inam by the Muhammadans. There is an island there. It is in the possession of the Pandiyala villagers without any tax. We request that the poramboke should be separated and handed over to the village panchayat. We are experiencing much difficulty on account of the joint pattas. Owing to that, they are collecting rent, due from one man, from another. The Government should conduct the survey and the zamindar should have no right to do so. If he has the right, all the evils now existing will continue. It would be better if the Government collect the tax also. Otherwise they will press us for payment. They will take out our vessels and thus put us to shame. In our village, a lakhier by name Chintapudi Pullayya is paying a cist of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. Even his cattle were attached. The gramakantam did not increase, since 1915, though there is an increase, of 4,000 in population. The village is congested as every house is occupied by ten or fifteen members. Due to cholera which occurred twice about 150 people died. Then the health officer inspected our village and remarked that our village is over-populated and that the extent of land occupied is very little. He ordered that the same may be extended. The panchayat officer asked as to how much we want. We prepared an estimate. In No. 980, there are twenty persons, equally occupied by the Hindus and the Muhammadans. There are Adi-Andhras, too. We do not have space even to lie down. On request, the zamindars' servants are eternally postponing the extension of the land. The surrounding land belongs to the zamindar. He does not give even an inch. There are 3,500 Muhammadans, 400 houses and 300 acres. We are not able to fight our cause in the court.

Q.—What is the population? A.—4,500. There about seventy or eighty houses belonging to the Hindus. The cause for the fact that there are lesser number of the Hindus can be found in the zamindar's appropriation of lands, belonging to the Hindus. As they are unable to find a living they migrated to places like Mathira and the Nizam's Dominions. There are four hundred Muhammadan houses. We do not have place even to bury our dead. The present cremation ground is already filled with. Five years back we formed an association, collected one anna or two annas and made it a total of Rs. 300 and bought on patta a land of 5 or 6 acres in extent. On the occasion of his sons' salgira,



we expressed our grievances and requested him to exempt the payment of the cist on the land. But nothing material happened as yet. We request that action may be taken on that.

Q.—When did you buy the land? A.—Three years back. The Hindus need a new cremation ground. In the Kanchala village the zamindar has encroached upon the cremation ground and planted his mango grove. Though the zamindar is not getting any income out of it, the ryots are put much difficulty. Twenty years back, the zamindar did not have even one acre either in our village or in Peddapuram also. Now-a-days, they are lending money for high interest, and when that is paid for three years, they are filing suits and appropriating the properties. Thus 650 acres of land was auctioned without even notice to the owners. This land belonged to the Muhammadans. That land is cultivated on behalf of the Rani Sahib. The Government are requested to enquire into the matter and restore the lands to the previous owners. We are forbidden to take even vegetables or earth for our use from the fields. We request that you will enquire with the help of Mr. K. V. Narayanarao, M.L.A., and that the needful action may be taken.

Q.—How much land do you possess? What has become of that? A.—I was having 35 or 40 acres. I sold some to pay the tax.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—What is the charge now per acre? A.—It is 2 annas. They are collecting since thirty years. They are prohibiting from taking earth and stones from the field.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you have land in Government also? A.—Yes. I was having but I had to sell it away for discharging the debts, eight or nine years back.

Q.—Was it not surveyed in 1890? A.—I was not so informed by my elders.

Q.—What is your vocation now? A.—All vocations. Whatever is available.

Q.—Is there any estate land in your village? A.—There are several lands belonging to the estate. There are no cremation grounds. The land we bought does not belong to them.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—You said that you don't go to the Courts for deciding between yourself and the zamindar? How is it decided? A.—The taxes must be collected by the Government though not by the Court of Wards. Collection of taxes must be in the hands of the Government. The ryot must have nothing to do with the zamindar.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—(In English.) A.—The river sand is our only consolation.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—You expressed your difficulties with the zamindari system. The zamindar says that he is going to sell his land and asking if you are prepared to buy it. You expressed your inability to do so. What is the real position of the zamindar and that of yourself? Are you united? Or is the presence of the one is detrimental to that of the other? A.—All the disputes are caused by the zamindar. If the zamindar does not create parties we agree to live in unity.

Q.—Do you agree to form panchayats and collect taxes yourselves? A.—Provided we are invested with some powers. We must have the right to give decrees and execute them.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Will you give false decree in the panchayat board? A.—Never. If one gives a false in one year, we replace him the next year by another.

Witness No. 83.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Tumu Kondiah, son of Ramaswami, aged 40 years, cultivator, Chintaluru Mokhasa village, Peddapur taluk, Thotapalli estate.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—How much land have you? A.—There is no limit in acres. I have land under patta, paying a tax of Rs. 160. There are boundaries. In 1915, registered muchilikas were taken from us levied double the amount as tax. They took the exact amount due and for the rest of the enhanced rate they are putting as arrears. We don't have pattas. Before 1915, it was Rs. 160 and odd. Later on they increased it and issued decrees. Though they increased it, they are collecting the old rates. The enhanced part of the amount is credited as arrears. In this manner they filed suits and obtained decrees for them. Now these are enforced. The zamindars are two brothers; one of them died in 1915 and a receiver was appointed. The receiver is Nandivada Venkata Rao.

Q.—When was the receiver appointed? A.—Three years back. In fasli 1315, all the village was given on contract. It was given under a mokhasa for a ryot. They were getting Rs. 300 hitherto; they are now getting Rs. 10,000. Now they are not collecting



under contract. Decrees are given and collections are made. They said that they got it in writing from the Peddapuram Deputy Collector, only nominally. They said that they have not yet got the copies of that. Promising that they will be giving, whenever they get them. They exacted compromises from us.

Q.—Do you wish that the taxes should be reduced? A.—Yes. There are Government lands, at a distance of six or eight miles. The rate per acre of wet is Rs. 3. They are watered by rain. There are no big tanks. The small tanks are in need of repairs. The lands of the Enumula Lachamdora. The mokhasadar are not surveyed. I don't know how the mokhasa is. There are no roads. The receiver has given his evidence before the Collector on behalf of the minors. They were paying Rs. 150 in 1315. But now it is Rs. 300. Suits were filed separately.

Q.—Are there no copies of the witness of the mokhasadar? A.—There are (presents a copy).

Q.—Then what is it that you want? A.—We want that all rates should be reduced, similarly. They have exacted from us sale deeds and security bonds for those arrears. And they have included all that under their own series. When it is registered a summary suit was filed. For fear of unwelcome proceedings we compromised. (The Zamindar of Mirzapuram raised a point of order, namely, whether R. Mandeswara Sarma can prompt the witness from behind.)

The CHAIRMAN: When an evidence is being given, no one else should prompt the witness. What all the witness pleases to say, he shall depose, the remaining may be sent in writing.

*Witness again:* There are soapnut trees and mango trees in those lands. They are taking the yield of those land, contrary to the compromise. Such things are done since 23 years. As there is no gramakantam, it causes much difficulty to the ryots.

Q.—Were you having a gramakantam sufficient for your village? A.—We were having one but now the zamindar is cultivating tobacco in that. The Government have dug a well there, but there is no way to it. Punta has already been appropriated.

Q.—When there is no way, why was the well dug? A.—The Government have dug in the self-kamatam lands. There was a punta then. Now it is narrow that it cannot provide place for a man to move. We were never given any remission.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—Does the mokhasadar belong to your village? A.—Yes. There are ten or fifteen ryots. Half of it belongs to the mokhasadar and the rest belongs to the ryots.

Q.—For how much of land are Rs. 150 paid? A.—For 12 or 13 acres of wet land and 15 acres of dry. For that the payment is Rs. 367. According decrees were given.

Q.—Did you send a petition to the Collector, for the reduction of taxes? A.—Saying that it is not necessary so long as they are existing, we were not allowed to go to the Collector. That is why ex-parte decrees were given.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What are the rates in your village? A.—Rs. 20 as tax per acre.

R. Mundeswara Sarma told the Chairman as follows: The witness that has come here is a representative one. We have to tell him some particulars and information. I have written a lists of documents and an analysis of them. I am telling him in accordance with that only. When the Vizianagaram Estate Revenue Inspector was deposing, he was prompted. Nobody objected to it then. I am asking you if I may also be allowed to tell something.

Ruling by the CHAIRMAN: Some interested parties are telling on behalf of the zamindars. You are telling on behalf of the people. There is no place for controversy. We told the other person to tell as much as he can. There is no need for difficulty for anyone. We have already told you to give the information you like in the shape of a memorandum. I have to tell you so much because of your asking the definition of prompting.

Witness No. 84.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sukhasani Venkatapathy, son of Brahmiah, cultivator, Sarabhavaram, Thotapalli estate.

To questions put by the Chairman, witness answered: Simhadri Venkanna Garu is the mokhasadar. I have got 11 acres of jirayati wet, and 7 acres of dry in the Sarabhavaram taluk. The ryotwari survey is done but no survey of acres. There is only



gandrapampu pillavary revadi. Boundaries are not fixed. We think that it is not surveyed as yet. There is no way of finding the extent of our land. There are no papers. God is the only witness. We have got the pattas given twenty years back, but they have never given any receipt for any payment whatever. The land belongs to two brothers. We and our father are paying Rs. 110. Our uncle also is paying the same amount. We are paying this amount since twenty years. I have given papers since 1907.

Q.—Are the kists you are mentioning now same as those in 1909? Or are they lower?  
A.—If you read that you will know. Rupees 218 in 1903, Rs. 257 in 1909, and Rs. 273 in 1937. This is of some other land. I don't have my pattas with me. That land belongs to Namala Satyam, Namala Chellarayudu, and Dhaniyala Jaggarayudu. You may see the receipts given previously. (He presents them.) The tanks were received for want of repairs. We sent a petition to the District Collector in 1934. He forwarded it to the Deputy Collector. They were summoned and informed that crops have been ruined and they promised to repair the tanks within three months. They have done something in 1935 being pressed much. They filed suits for arrears in 1936 and obtained decrees. Though I paid Rs. 26 the kist for fasli 1343, they have accounted it for fasli 1336. We are incurring much loss due to the joint pattas.

Being questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness stated as follows: There are two tanks in our mokhasa. The bigger one is repaired 40 years back. The other is badly in need of it. I don't know the extent of the ayacut under the tank. The proportion of land in possession of the ryot and the mokhasadar is as 6 : 7. The mokhasadars are giving us water only whenever they please. We sent a petition to the Collector. (Presents it.) In fasli 1345, no reply was given for that. They brought a land of 10 or 12 acres in the tank. For using that land, the mokhasadar has constructed a dam. As they are their relatives they kept quiet in spite of such an act. Though we petitioned to the Collector that we are incurring some loss thereby, no order was issued. The Deputy Collector came and inspected but to no effect. The dam is existing still. It was constructed fifteen years back with mortar. The land they bought was not wet originally. It was dry. They bought it from the ryot and converted dry into wet. For getting water for that they have constructed this dam. We request that remission may be granted to us when there is no yield.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you request for remission? A.—Yes, but we did not send any petition either to the Collector or mokhasadar.

Q.—Who is collecting the taxes in your village? A.—Both of them have engaged a clerk. The village munsif will not collect. They should not have the control of water-supply. Otherwise the ryots will be troubled. As they are having that control, they are now giving water only to whomsoever they please.

Q.—Is there a separate patta for your land? A.—No. We have got a joint patta in the names of my father and his brother.

Q.—Is your father alive? A.—Yes. He is ill. Our village is at a distance of forty miles.

Q.—Have you come to depose? Are there any ryots' associations in your village? A.—No. As they have not repaired the tanks, we sent a petition to the Collector. In order to trouble us they filed suits on us. We are in no other way their opponents.

Q.—Are you brought by Mandeswara Sarma Garu? A.—No. I have come on my own accord. We request that our lands may be surveyed and the rates may be fixed similar to the Government rates.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Who will bear the charges for surveying? Ryots of zamindars? A.—We are in poverty. The ryot cannot bear. The zamindar must bear.

Witness No. 85.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Amaradi Ramaiah, son of Sooranna, aged 35 years, cultivator, Sarabhavaram village, now in Pittapuram estate.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Is yours a mokhasa? A.—We are estate ryots. We are living in Sarabhavaram. Kottapalli Estate belongs to Kondamadugulavari, Kotapalli.

Q.—How much do you pay? A.—We pay Rs. 26-11-0 from patta and Rs. 60-10-0 on another patta. Wet and dry is similar in Kondamadugulavari, Kottapalli. It requires work. They are coming when there is rain above. Hill stream flows up to the first



new moon. It dries away with the advent of summer. In 1918 the kist was Rs. 144-7-4. Kondi Kamarajp, Kondi Kammayya, Kondi Mangayyamma, Vishnumurthy, Anaradi Chinaramayya, we are all joint pattadars. The tax is increased gradually. It can be seen from this patta.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How many acres of land have you got? A.—I have got 50 acres of land.

Q.—Have you not got 14 acres in patta No. 1? A.—7½ acres of dry wet.

Q.—What is the kist per acre? A.—I cannot say at acre rate but it may be Rs. 26-11-0 per 7½ acres.

Q.—Do you think it is high? A.—Yes it is high.

Q.—Were you not a servant of the Estate? A.—I was a supervisor and my services were dispensed with.

Q.—You realised that the rents were high after your services were dispensed with. Is it? A.—They were never low and my post was given to another Raju Garu.

Q.—Are you paying higher rents now than before? A.—We are not paying now. For the last twenty years it has been the same.

Q.—The Raja filed civil suits against you all? A.—He filed. It was only after the decree was granted that the Raja is giving us water.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—You said and it can be seen from the papers filed that at first in 1317 fasli it was more than that in 1347 which Rs. 118-7-4 excluding cesses. In 1899 it was Rs. 80-14-5? A.—Yes, Sir. The suit papers have been taken by the Maharaja. When we put in a petition they got the records to the court.

Witness No. 86.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Jeevaratnam, son of Basavayya, aged 35 years, tailor, Keesara village, Muktyala estate.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are you a ryot? A.—My land was annexed by the zamindar twenty years back.

Q.—Why did he annex it? A.—We had been in possession of the land from the time of our forefathers doing service to the Government and the zamindars. The Government granted us pattas after survey. The zamindars annexed the same on the plea that they are theirs. Since we are people we had to keep quiet. We had 10 acres of land and we were giving free service.

Q.—Who is doing the service now? A.—He is now getting it done by another man paying for it.

Q.—Have they granted inams to them? A.—They have converted them into own kamatam.

Q.—What is he paid per mensem? A.—Rupees 6 per month.

Q.—Did you not file a suit? A.—We are poor people. The village karnam warned us not to publish it for fear of arrest by the zamindar. He said that his lands had also been annexed and that our lands would be returned along with theirs.

Q.—Is it wet land or dry. What crop is grown in that? A.—It is dry land in which javari is grown. The yield is about half a candy.

Q.—Is it sufficient for your family? A.—It is enough.

Q.—How are you getting on now? A.—We have migrated far away from the village to live. They beat us all, males and females and had us all thrown into the jail at Rajahmundry. We lived at Keesara for two years. In the second year the brother of the zamindar came and turned us out. Some of us who could not live there went and settled in Ragapuram.

Q.—How long is it since this happened? A.—Fourth year is running. Some are living in Ragapuram and others in the adjacent village Gandepalli. We are much troubled. If we want to live by giving service they do not pay us anything. These are the pattas granted to us. (Presents them.)

Q.—In whose possession is the patta land now? A.—It is in the possession of the zamindar now. It is cultivated as own kamatam.



Q.—Were the lands of the karnam also annexed similarly? A.—No. The karnam had a decree in his favour even in the Privy Council. The karnam is in possession of his lands. On this ground we requested the zamindar to return our lands to us. We submitted a petition to the Government. No endorsement is yet received.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there any more difficulties to be represented? A.—They instituted criminal cases against us and got us convicted. Females and children were also sent to jail. They had behaved highhandedly. It is my brothers that were imprisoned.

Q.—Were separate pattas granted? A.—Service pattas were granted to Basala Kotireddy, Iylapogula Lachayi and Errayi.

Q.—Were the lands of these three in the possession of the zamindar? A.—Besides the lands of these three they had annexed the service inams of 25 villages.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What crop was grown, what is the extent of the land? A.—Javari sajja, horsegram and sajja two crops, javari and cotton, one crop.

Q.—What was the cost of the land? A.—It sells at Rs. 300.

Witness No. 87.

Rajahmundry.

17th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Parvathaneni Venkatasubbayya, son of Lakshmayya, aged 34 years, agriculturist and Secretary of the Taluk Ryots' Association, Mukkollupadu village, Telaprole estate, Nuzvid taluk.**

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are you a ryot of the Telaprole Estate? A.—Yes, of Mukkollupadu.

Q.—Is the Telaprolu Estate included in Nuzvid? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many villages are there in your estate? A.—Approximately thirty.

Q.—How much land have you got? A.—Only 5 acres of dry. We lost all wet. Though we lost, the patta is not transferred.

Q.—Is it so even now? A.—Though I lost the land the pattas are in my name.

Q.—How much wet land you were having? A.—Five acres in a patta.

Q.—Is it not under you now? A.—We sold them away to clear off debts.

Q.—What rate did you pay for wet? A.—From Rs. 5 to Rs. 11.

Q.—For dry? A.—From 8 annas to Rs. 4.

Q.—How did you get water for wet? A.—From tanks. There are two tanks in our village—(1) jarib tank and (2) wet tank.

Q.—Do you like to say anything regarding the rates? A.—The rates must be reduced.

Q.—How much must be reduced? A.—The rates must not be more than the rates in the Government lands.

Q.—Are there Government lands near your lands? A.—There are dharmajugudem lands, etc. The rates for Government lands are between Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 for wet and 4 annas to Re. 1 for dry.

Q.—Your lands may be superior to those lands? A.—No. Both are of same quality.

Q.—Are the Government lands better than yours? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any other estates nearby? A.—There is the Vizianagram Estate. There the rates are between Rs. 13 to Rs. 14.

Q.—What is the minimum? A.—For wet it is between Rs. 3 to Rs. 14.

Q.—How is the dry land? A.—For dry it ranges from 4 annas to Rs. 2.

Q.—Are those lands really better than yours? A.—They are adjacent lands to ours.

Q.—Are your lands of lesser value than those of the Vizianagram Estate? A.—No. Higher.

Q.—Is not the wet rate in your estate lesser than that of the Vizianagram Estate? A.—Yes. But those lands are more fertile. In the case of jarib, the rate there is between Rs. 10 and Rs. 27. Jarib means the land where tobacco is cultivated. In Vizianagram Estate, there is no jarib under tanks. In our village there is jarib under tanks. For those cultivated under wells in the Vuyyur Estate, the rate is Rs. 1-4-0. It is only so



much because they are cultivating it with their own wells. That is too much there. There was 84 acres of jarib cultivation under the tanks. Under that they are now cultivating 150 acres of wet.

Q.—Is there cultivation of jarib now? A.—There is an extent of 84 acres. It is the same always. There are 150 acres of dry land other than jarib. The wet is being cultivated as jarib. In addition to those 84 acres they are cultivating 150 acres more. By the time that the wet is ripe to yield, there will be no water for jarib and the tanks will be empty. The jarib is thus made useless. This loss is constantly occurring.

Q.—Since how long are 150 acres are watered by tanks? A.—Since thirty years. It began thirty years ago and came to be 150 acres by this time. Once we have served a registered notice to the Raja. "The jarib is not giving any yield. We are incurring much loss"—In this manner we served the notice. No answer was given. "We will cultivate the jarib under the tank. We will cultivate wet lands"—This we sent an application. For this an endorsement is given in 1925 that this tank has been meant for the use of the jarib cultivation but not for wet cultivation. They stated that the request for the cultivation of paddy will not be considered. Much have been cultivated by 1925. The rest has been cultivated later on. We request that there should be no wet cultivation under the jarib tanks. The tax for nivesanams is between Rs. 2 to Rs. 12½ per acre. I request that they may be abolished.

Q.—What is meant by nivesanams? A.—Building-sites. For that they have levied Rs. 2 to Rs. 12½ tax generally, if the ryots construct houses even in patta lands. Ordinarily rates are levied. But now they are collecting Rs. 2 to Rs. 12 for nivesanams. As houses are constructed in the gramakantam, there should be no tax. They are obstructing the reaping of harvest unless the cists are paid. If the ryots go and pray the officials, they will give a chit addressed to the watcher. Thus we have to go about for the help of the officials. I have got a receipt to that effect. (Files the chit.) There is no yield since fasli 1342. Since then we have gone to inform the Raja Sahib. Interview was not granted. Remission was never given. Thus in spite of the fact that there is no yield, no remission, and no help, they are selling our land worth Rs. 200 at about Rs. 10 in auction for our not being able to pay off the arrears. Not that these arrears are caused by the dearth of any yield. That auctioned land is included under Swanta amarakam (self-cultivation). There are several lands of that sort since fasli 1342. Lands were attached and auctioned since faslis 1342 to 1344. The ryots are left with half 'ambaram.' The list filed in the last October contains the fields auctioned. In addition to our starving for want of yield and rejection of interview, all our lands worth Rs. 500 each are brought at Rs. 25 each and cultivated under ambaram share system. There are wet lands also in the list. There is a co-operative society in our village. We have taken a credit of Rs. 10,000. We informed the loans society that the zamindari auction is over. It will be known from the papers filed in fasli 1345, as to how many lands we own now, and how many went to the possession of the zamindar. The ryot is helpless even if his land worth Rs. 500 is mercilessly auctioned for arrears of Rs. 10. This year we went to see the Raja eleven times, but in vain. The people have no voice in the administration. Nor are they administered well. They are suffering very much. They have no food to eat. Their lands were sold in October of fasli 1345. Later on deed is written, stating that a land worth so much has been auctioned for so much amount. In 1937, they have brought 5 acres for Rs. 1,500 at Rs. 300 per acre. A land worth Rs. 900 has been auctioned by them for Rs. 40. That land belongs to Chelasani Venkata Subbamma. It has been thus auctioned for an arrear of cist of Rs. 40. That land is now in the name of the Estate. They did not return it even on a promise of clearing the arrears of Rs. 40. The estate have appropriated it. We did not send the money we owe by money order. They did not comply with our request for the restoration of our lands to us. Even now the land is under their possession. It was leased out to the ryots on half-share system. The Raja Sahib has constructed a village.

Q.—In what manner are all these villages auctioned? A.—Twenty-one auctions took place in fasli 1342. An extent of 44 acres 29 cents was auctioned for Rs. 1,041-8-0. Its actual worth is Rs. 6,650. Thirty-nine auctions took place in fasli 1343. An extent of 95 acres 41 cents was sold in auction for Rs. 2,145. Its real worth is Rs. 15,700. In fasli 1344, 31 auctions took place. An extent of 98 acres 3 cents was auctioned for Rupees 2,170-8-0, which if properly sold would fetch Rs. 1,27,000. In fasli 1345, 71 auctions took place. An extent of 231 acres 61 cents was auctioned for Rs. 3,577-11-5. Its real value was Rs. 35,525. Thus in total 162 auctions were conducted. An extent of 469 acres 34 cents worth Rs. 70,575 was auctioned for Rs. 8,934-11-5. For cultivating that land a village has been raised in the forest. The Korlakonda village is constructed in the forest. Labourers are brought from Nizam and cultivation is carried on with their help. Last year they were brought from Hyderabad also. They cultivated of their own one year. The previous year they leased out to people of our village only. Due to dearth of



yield, a loan of Rs. 10,000 was incurred. For that a decree was obtained for Rupees 6,000 on the people. The bank authorities are ready to execute the decree. Our lands are past becoming estate lands. They told that they cannot wait any more. We have no hope of expressing our grievances to our overlords, as we are not granted any interview. We are in a critical position. The area under the village is 4,500 acres. Of that only 2,000 is being cultivated. The rest is forest. Of that 1,600 acres are dry, 320 acres of wet and 84 acres of jarib. On the whole it is 2,000 acres. The debt was like that in faslis 1346 and 1347. They are trying to attach this also. When we applied for remission they denied the same. The Raja Sahib has issued a patta (in 1926-27) in Rayanagudem (Telaprole Estate). For common lands also 2 cents of bushy tract, 7 cents of temple land and 20 cents of other land. Even some lands under the tanks are given in pattas to some ryots. Those lands are made wet when the tanks are full. Those ryots stealthily make a breach and water their lands. There is no sluice for a tank. If there is a heavy rain, by the time the tank is full, the ryots will creak an outlet by cutting a breach and when the danger is averted, they will close the outlet. The water goes waste when there is no unity among the ryots. As there are no sluices and outlets, the tanks must always be repaired well.

Q.—What does it cost if the tank is to be repaired? A.—Rs. 4,000 for both the two tanks.

Q.—If Rs. 4,000 are thus spent does it yield much? A.—I cannot say exactly.

Q.—Did you submit a memorandum? Don't tell what is already stated therein, lest much time be wasted? A.—When we applied for remission for fasli 1342, they granted a little remission for one or two years. The estate officials fix the amount of remission after our agreeing to pay them a part (one-fourth or so) of the remission as bribe. For this there will be no public document. The ryots will be restless till those three years elapse. Thus a part of those hard-earned remissions are snatched away by the estate officials. We were possessing all rights of wood, fence and fuel of the forest. But now their express permission is needed for that. They are not issuing chits. The ryots must beg of them four or five times before they can secure a chit of that sort. If we don't vote according to their orders in the elections, our cattle will be put in pounds saying that we have voted for the Congress. Thus we are troubled. As I have supported the Congress during the last election, they have obtained a decree on my patta and attached my cattle even though I don't owe any arrears. But the auction is annulled. Thus the people are troubled. The forest of our village is being given away for cultivation. As already shown, the lands of the Korlakunta village forest are cultivated by employing labour from Nizam. After the Congress has come to power, Korlakunta and Mukkollupadu is being given away. Mango groves are planted in Sobhanapuram. As those lands are thus made use of in an illicit manner, much loss is being incurred by us. The Raja Saheb is laying a mango grove of 100 acres by deforesting. Thus all the forest is disappearing. If there is to be no forest in the upland villages, it will be difficult and unbearable to remain in the villages. The lands of the village are devoid of fertility. If every ryot does not rear cattle, he cannot carry out cultivation. All the dry and forest land has come to be cultivated. Two hundred acres of our village, 400 acres of Korlakunta and 200 acres of Sobhanapuram have come to be cultivated in the same manner. The wet rate in Korlakunta is Rs. 33-12-0. That land cannot bear that tax. The jarib rate is Rs. 33-12-0. Though we have made it wet, the jarib rate is not reduced. The things that we need are—

- (1) The rate of the cist must be one-sixth of the net income.
- (2) The water-supply and the repairs must be undertaken by the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department must have the control of water-supply.
- (3) The Government only must have the right of collection of taxes.
- (4) We must have the right of free access to the forest. We were possessing the same right ten years back. We used to take fuel and fence from the forest free of cost. This prevention of our admission into the forest is the innovation devised by the zamindar. Even now there are no rates. No money is collected. Their permission must be obtained for going into the forest. If we don't construct fence and manure with dried leaves, there will be no yield in upland villages. The ryot must have full right over forest. The ryot has no convenience of killing any pig and other wild animal of the forest. Four years back, when a villager shot a pig, his licence for shooting was cancelled for his doing so. Every year there must be a jamabandi. Hitherto it was taken now and then.

Q.—When did the jamabandi take place? A.—I cannot tell definitely. Now, it is done properly. The ryots' associations must be recognized. The forest must be under the control of the panchayat.



By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—How much land is there in your village for the use of cattle? A.—Two thousand five hundred acres of forest for the cattle to go about. Persons having jarib are not taxed. Others have to pay taxes. If a cow or buffalo gets into the forest a rate of 4 annas must be paid.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You told that a site-tax of Rs. 2 to Rs. 12 is being collected. Since when is it so collected? A.—Since long, since I know of the world. I am 44 years old. I don't have such a land.

Q.—For how many acres are such taxes levied? A.—For 40 cents.

Q.—Did you apply to the zamindar regarding that? What did he say? A.—For house-sites which ought to be levied a tax of Rs. 2 they are levying Rs. 10 and Rs. 12. There is a village called Gollagudem. Every ryot has been granted 25 cents of land. For that a tax of 8 annas is levied. I have constructed a house in a part of that land. I am residing there.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Did they grant lands in the forest? A.—There is no nazarana. They are collecting cists.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Don't you belong to Mukkollupadu? You told about Korlakunta and Sobhanapuram. Did you visit those villages? A.—I am the Secretary of the Taluk Ryots' Association. I went to see the condition of the villages.

Q.—You told that there is no proper yield for jarib under the tank. Do you have any such land of your own? A.—I have none, but others have.

Q.—You expressed that 150 acres have been made wet. Is it after the enactment of the Estates Land Act. Is it not done by the Court of Wards? A.—The Court of Wards also might have done some part. After that our Raja Sahib also did the same.

Q.—You said that the rate in the Vuyyur Estate is between Rs. 3 to Rs. 15. Do you know the prices of that land? A.—Pothireddipalli is near our village.

Q.—Did you apply for more water for jarib lands stating that the water you are getting is not sufficient? A.—Fearing that the Raja Sahib may get angry, we did not apply to him. Fearing that they have to leave the village if suits are to be filed on them, the villagers did not take that step.

Q.—When is your Taluk Ryots' Association instituted? A.—In the year 1927, I have become the Secretary this year only—only three months back.

Q.—Did they not construct a canal for your tank? A.—The canal is deposited with earth. The tobacco fields are not giving any yield. They are spoiled.

Q.—You expressed that the rates are too high. Is it since the enactment of the Estates Land Act or even from some time before that? A.—High rates are levied in our village since a long time before the Estates Land Act.

Q.—The previous rates are continued. They are not increased after the enactment of the said Act? A.—Yes, those rates that are existing since long are too high. We request that they may be reduced.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Do you say that the present rates are high? A.—Yes.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Did you send a petition that there is no yield and that you are incurring much loss? Did you send a petition to the Collector? A.—No. We applied to the Raja Saheb. But there is no possibility of sending a petition even to the Raja Saheb. The lands in our village cost Rs. 50 per acre of dry land and Rs. 300 per acre of wet land.

Witness No. 90.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Vadappalli Ramamurthi, son of Sivaramiah, aged 39 years,  
Pothavaram lanka, Divi taluk, Challapalli estate.

I am a ryot. All the land in the dry lanka was lost in clearing debts. I am now cultivating on pali (division) system, 10 acres of Government wet. I am cultivating 10 acres zamindari dry. It belongs to my relations. Islands were not surveyed. Tax is Rs. 2 for kunta (53 cents). There is an extent of 8,000 acres gobhuni in our village for the zamindar. Under the conditions, at present prevailing, the taxes are very high. Rs. 2 per kunta is very high. There are lands which cannot pay Rs. 12 per kunta. Even the best land cannot bear more than Re. 1. The tax should be graded according to classes. It is my estimate. There are no other lands round about. I do not know about that kind of cultivated



lands. I have no experience. As I am cultivating the same myself I know, it is very profitable for me if I pay Re. 1 to the zamindar after cultivating a good land, after taking into account my labour, seeds and other cultivation charges. (The witness filed the dowlar account for 1844.) There is 16 acres own cultivation. Some land was made useless by sand covering. There is a surplus of Rs. 4 per kunta if the zamindar is paid Re. 1. I did not think it was unjust. I am speaking about lankas in general, namely, Pothavaram lanka, Gazula lanka. There are two hamlets to Gazula lanka—Chintala and Siggula. There is 200 acres of seri land there. Population is about 4,000. The rest is considered and goes to be under the name of the zamindar. I cannot give the total extent. There are estate lands near the entrance and the first step falls in them. In such a state man wants some moving space. Even the pathway that leads to the villages is through the zamindar's island. I think the same is the state everywhere. I do not personally know it.

*Collection of taxes.*—Absence of survey, and unwillingness to transfer pattas—owing to these factors, if one private lease-holder does not pay tax it is collected from another even by filing suits and attaching. There must be no joint patta system. (The witness filed a register notice issued by him to the zamindar regarding his difficulties, that the rate was high, that he was obliged to sell away all his lands, that his land was filled up with sand and that the soil may be analysed.) No reply for that. In 1931 they collected from me the cost of a stamp in my own case for paying taxes on some lands. Really the stamp was not used. In fasli 1342 (13th November 1932) they collected an amount of Rs. 15 including postage. I doubted and enquired. I sent petitions to the State authorities. I went to a vakil. I had to keep quiet. They said that a sale was brought for arrears of taxes. It is not a decree as a notice would be served for that. It is not a suit. It is a revenue auction after proclamation by the court. (He showed a notice.) The notice was not concerning that. I paid the amount. I enquired about it. The estate clerks told me it was not filed. I represented to them. I sent 20 petitions. I gave some land to clear debts in 1932–33. The other day one ryot brought me two notices. He said that they are to be filed. No. 126 patta belongs to Kantamanenivaru. It belongs to fasli 1342. Tax was collected from a ryot twice for the same item. If I could send him I would have brought them myself.

Common lands, pathways and harvest grounds, etc., are being encroached by the adjacent ryots. They have encroached because the administration is so bad. Some have changed into lanes. It is not possible to go from one village to another in rainy season. The report of Mr. N. W. Webb, Head Assistant Collector, Guntur, will be with the Survey department. A circular area was fixed (గంజిల్ల వర్షరేఖ). It belongs to 1850. This I brought from the ex-karnam. All is sand-mixed soil in the circular area (6,232 acres). Of that 614 acres is Krishna lankas. I suspect it is under the head of the zamindar's own cultivation. Acres 15, 16 seems to be zamindar's own cultivation as per the data prepared for 1844. (The witness read from an old account):—

	Kattulu.	Visam.	Pirulu.
Public way .. .. .	4	10	10
Cremation ground .. .. .	..	1	10
Village water cess .. .. .	82	5	6½
Podukulu .. .. .	¾	..	3
Tank .. .. .	..	1	15
Gardens .. .. .	5	14	2½
Krishna high level lands .. .. .	2	10	7
Donepudi, West Kistna, etc., all included .. .. .	..	1	14
Tilled land .. .. .	2	5	1
Sand gonupulu .. .. .	24	6	¾
The rest in the possession of the ryot .. .. .	200	3	3½
Belonging to the ryot .. .. .	199	2	6½
Dry .. .. .	1	13	1
Land for maintenance of the zamindar's bulls .. .. .	200	3	3½
Dry inams .. .. .	1	6	14½
Previous inams .. .. .	..	14	1
Kattubadi inams .. .. .	..	14	1
Vanjapur Sivakesavaswami's .. .. .	..	6	1
Gopalaswami's .. .. .	14	..	1
Recent inams .. .. .	½	10	½ visam.
Sarva Dumbala Katti .. .. .	½	..	10½ suras.
Waste land exempted not collected .. .. .	15	14	10
Zamindar's bull's land .. .. .	..	..	13½
Total .. .. .	15	14	10

Dry, wet—Nil.

That there are no lands to be granted on nazrana. I understood this. Nowadays thousands of acres is considered to be the zamindar's—About 4,000 acres in Pothavaram lanka, Gudikattu 6,234 and zamindar's own land about 4,000 acres. A part of this is



from common lands. The lands of the ryots are being occupied. From this it appears there were about 15 acres. Previously the total extent of the land in the village was 222 kattula (kattu=15 acres and odd).

Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: I cannot say if it is higher on Government lands. I cannot say if I have no objection for collection of Government rate. I think that it must be in accordance with the capacity of the land. The Government rate may be higher under some conditions.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: I am a ryot and am paying Rs. 6 per acre. Now the condition is not good, but I am paying since they are relatives. How can I say if Rs. 4 is written on my face. Rs. 2 per kunta, above that Rs. 4 for zamindar. I am keeping quiet whether I have profit or not. Because it is my profession I must do it. I cultivate even without profit. I have been doing it for the last 20 years. Own cultivation is claimed but the zamindar never even gets it filled. It is cultivated on behalf of them and the tax is paid. I cannot say what extent is in the possession of the ryot. Even though there are Government lands three or four miles away, I do not know the rate of taxation there. I hear they are lesser. We cannot accept a rate of Rs. 6. It must be assessed taking into consideration the land and the labour of the ryot required. There are ryots who are cultivating in our island. I cannot say why they did not come. I am a member of the Ryot's Association for the last one year. The Secretary of the Association is Murahari Rao Garu. Four or five years back I applied for a post in services. I got my senses back and withdrew my application on the next day. We cannot say that man's mind is unwavering. The present trials are not in the estate. I did not represent that the rates were high. We kept quiet expecting the zamindar to do it. It is not silt but sand that is deposited in island lands. There is growing and washing off. Our island was washed off at some place and was accreted at others. They collected Rs. 2,000 and kusa grass was planted. The villagers did it. I say now with full knowledge. I came here to speak truth.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju: There is what is called Krishna lanka. 614 is accreted extend of land.

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: There is 200 kattus. I cannot say if it is in the possession of the ryot now or not. I imagine it is reduced. I cannot give the extent of common land. Pathways are very little. It is in my memory that they became less in extent.

Witness No. 91.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Karra Venkateswara Rao, son of Narasimham, aged 38 years, Srikakulam, Divi taluk, Challapalli estate.

I am a ryot and Secretary of Divi Taluk Ryots' Association. Taxes were being enhanced apart from the Act. For dry the tax was Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 3 teru vari before the Estates Land Act. The rates were enhanced after the construction of the Kistna anicut (1822) and it was begun to be cultivated wet. They were enhanced without any improvements being made by them. On wet land it increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. I have got about 40 acres in our joint patta. There was no wet in the previous patta. I bought some lands. From the time of the assumption of the Diwanship by Krishna Rao Pantulu they have been enhanced. For 10 acres it was Rs. 20 and when it was cultivated wet it was raised to Rs. 40. There is no use in approaching the Collector. There is the rate of fasli 1291. They say we must pay according to that. They promised to get the Bode channels repaired but nothing was done. That condition is not in the patta. There is to be a change in ours. About 30 acres converted into wet. The other day in the case of 6 acres they assessed at Rs. 2-4-0 per acre.

I am paying Rs. 4. There should be no such enhancement. We are collecting by subscriptions and getting them repaired. For 10 or 15 years the condition about the duty of repairing is being omitted. There are no papers to show that they have undertaken to repair. (Read from the patta.) These are pattas on hand, but no muchilkas. The duty of repairing is the zamindar's and the ryot has nothing, they say. The ryots are submitting petitions. No endorsements are received on them. Copies are with the ryots. I have searched for them but I did not bring them now. Our Taluk Association is receiving petitions. We are submitting them to the estate authorities. Our association is in existence for the last five years. There is no other go but to ask to withhold enhanced rates. No use of suits. We are preaching people to withhold payment of enhanced rates. We have prepared no lists.



Replying Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : They are repairing like this in many villages. Only for one or two villages they did so. They did repairs for an amount of Rs. 70 in our village three years back. They gave to two villages out of forty. Ryots have spent and have claimed a share through petitions.

Answering the Chairman he said : The rate for dry is not more than Rs. 3. For seri or bapatu wet Rs. 3 to Rs. 8. For mamul wet Rs. 9 to Rs. 14. Cesses to the extent of Rs. 6-4-0 are to be paid to the Government for a land-cess of Rs. 3 rate. The rate for seri must be reduced. Bode channels and canals have been got dug by the ryots. I am paying this from my experience for the last 15 years. My father was karnam and is no more. The increase made 20 years back did not come down. They had never repaired the Bode channels. Our society have gone into the question of Government rates. They are just. The ryots cannot bear such high rates. This is my opinion. I do not know Vuyyur rates. The rate for mamul wet is Rs. 9. It was Re. 1-4-0 in the beginning. They enhanced it to Rs. 2 saying that they had tanks dug. The rate for mamul must not be more than the consolidated Government rate. In Divi island the Government rate is from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10. The estate was surveyed in 1890 but it was not accepted by them. It was not put into force. In 1234-35 fasli a survey was made by the Government without the consent of the ryots. Government Order, dated 4th January 1890, was not put into force until 1334 fasli. Pattas were given as per checkbandi mashayati. They are picking out old numbers and are assessing the increased area. Patta No. 30.

						RS. A. P.
1 Khattu 7 visam, 11 pirus—1343 kist	..	..	..	..	..	52 14 0 Same land.
27 acres, 60 cents—1344 kist	..	..	..	..	..	59 9 1 Same patta.

The survey number as per 1890 is put in it. Area changes a little. It is the beginning. Acre is 50 cents. There must be a separate survey and record of rights. We do not accept that survey.

396 field survey 14-50.

New survey 16-25 in 1890.

By divisions it has become less. So we thought it was inaccurate.

*Kamatam lands.*—Ryot's land decreased and cultivation increased (kamatam). There was no own cultivation in the estate previously. In the hurricane of 1864 many families were annihilated. At that juncture the zamindar included them under own cultivation to convert them into seris. The zamindar's hukum regarding lands of the deceased in the hurricane. It was written to the Majupur karnam under date 26th November 1865. (Filed original and copy.) I am saying that is the land of the ryots. (Total dowlu for Sriakulam.) No kamatam in 1850, 1860, 1870. It was under amani system till 1270 fasli. There was a change when system of paying taxes came into force. Then it was advantageous. If we cultivated 5 acres then we have to pay tax for 10 acres now. Even though tanks were dug in the village for charity they used to meet them as own kamatam saying they are theirs. In 1908 the extent of kamatam was about 16 kattus. (The witness read some examples to show how kamatam lands increased gradually.)

Our estate authorities are filing suits for taxes according to enhanced rates without applying to the Collector for enhancing the taxation. This is very disadvantageous. The revenue courts are dismissing them. Still they are filing suits. This has been continuing consecutively for the last five or six years. Without authority for enhancing and without the permission of the Collector they are filing suits. The records are in the Deputy Collector's Court. You can call for them and see. Those records are inaccessible to us. For fear of the difficulties of going to the court the ryots compromise agreeing for a small enhancement. Even for that, suits are filed. Owing to these reasons it is better that the distraint authority is taken away from the zamindar's hands.

The records concerning Mangalapuram suits are in the Divisional office, Masulipatam. The village panchayat boards should be given the power to collect taxes. If taxes are not paid properly the authority for collecting arrears should be in the hands of the Collector under the Arrears of Rent Collection Act. Even though there are parties. The village panchayats, if they are invested with powers will function well. If not, the village officers can be empowered with this side of the work. The situation is favourable for the panchayat boards to function united. If there are arrears, the Collector should be empowered to collect it by distraint sale under Arrears of Land Act.



The estate filed suits in civil courts claiming the land as own kamatam in the case of communal lands of Yendakuduru for which pattas were given to ryots. It was carried as far as the High Court. "These suits are not of civil nature. They are revenue suits and the revenue courts only should decide them." This was the decree of the High Court. They decreed that the estate should reserve 15 cents as kamatam (C.R.P. Nos. 177 to 179 and 1092 to 1094 of 1917). Batch of cases of which 17 acres is zamindar's own kamatam. (He filed copy of High Court's order and judgments of lower courts.) It can be seen from these papers that there was own kamatam of 17 acres in Yendakuduru-Ramannapet villages. These were all patta lands of ryots. In 1927 the estate authorities occupied common land in poramboke No. 37 acres 1.50 in extent. The villagers sent a petition to the Collector. Civil suits were filed by Chalamsetti Sivayya Garu. By this it is evident that the estate authorities tried to lease out porambokes. It is clear that there is no own kamatam in the village and that they had encroached upon the porambokes. They get muchilikas executed with new and increased conditions. It can be seen from the irasalna of the estate. Afterwards it was written they have compromised as per the judgment of the arbitrators. Muchilikas were prepared with nishanis ( *ನಿಶಾನಿ* ) and an irasalna was prepared for Rs. 296-11-3. The kists were enhanced to Rs. 318-8-3 on the total ayacut. The land that is there is about acres 2.45 assessable at Rs. 2-12-0 per acre. It was assessed for Rs. 318. I do not know how these accounts were prepared. How could there be own kamatam when seris themselves are considered illegal. False muchilikas were prepared. They are increasing the records. The highest rate that can be assessed is Rs. 50. For that it was taxed Rs. 318 and odd. He filed registered pattas. Even Nazrana included this extent of acres 12.50 cannot be assessed more than Rs. 50. They have assessed it at Rs. 318. It is not known who the arbitrators are and what their decision is. It may be paid not more than Rs. 50. Though this rate is high they have assessed it at Rs. 318.

In Lakshmipuram, Mangalapuram, Pedakallepalli and Pedpolu, there is an extent of 1,500 acres of Banjar poramboke land. This land was under forest head in A registers. It is said that forest is unassessed waste. It was gobhoomi. Now it is estate's own kamatam. It was once village common land. Now it is not allowed like that. From 1922-23 it was not allowed to be used as village common ground. These were occupied by the estate authorities and if the cattle of the ryots go there they are impounded. It is not in the possession of the villagers. They are doing so. Civil suits were filed about it. Pattas were given. He filed the documents and dowle of 1274 fasli. They had it written there as having no forest.

This forest is on the side of a road. The district board requested permission from the estate for carting sand through this forest. The estate revenue inspector wrote that that was land without dowle and that it cannot be acquitted or compounded. If sand quarry files 1922-23 are looked into it can be seen clearly. The Challapalli estate authorities wrote to the district board on 12th March 1923. The whole extent belonging to four villages is 1,500 acres. The district board discontinued carrying sand through this land. The land is even now in the same state excepting for some pattas granted to ryots of Nukalavaripalem.

In 1932 suits were filed against Chelani Sivayya. In 1890 it was noted as 76 cents. Suit was filed alleging that it was encroachment of the forest. If we go through the accounts of 1890 it is noted in the survey register as assessed waste land. Suit was filed in 1931. This record proves that Nazrana was taken and that patta was granted. It will be proved that road fund was collected on this unassessed waste land. To see road fund accounts records must be got and examined.

In the books of the Laxmipuram village 280-281, etc., are noted as forest, land pieces and mango garden, etc., dry. Number 281 is noted as a small forest—Na-layakh. These are accounts prepared on 11th January 1891. Likewise if the registers of other villages are gone through it can be seen to what extent the porambokes are occupied. There are 66 villages in Challapalli estate. Main villages are revenue villages and there are four or five hamlets for each village.

The letter written by the revenue inspector to the district board can be seen in the sand quarry file. He wrote that it was land without cowle and cannot be granted for compensation. The revenue inspector is Sri Dynala Seshagiri Rao. The original record can be seen in the district board office.

On 11th November 1924 a petition was filed to the Collector stating that the village (Ramanagar) common lands were occupied by the estate authorities. These lands were unfit (na-layakh) for grazing cattle, growing grass or for cultivation. It was supplying fuel to the village and paths to the forest water wells and tanks and to the burial grounds lay



through it. The land that could be used for similar purposes was appropriated by the estate for own kamatam and cholam was sown by closing these pathways. It was inconvenient for the villagers in many respects, namely, stagnation of rain water, closing of the pathway to the forest, closing of the road leading to Mutharajapalem, prevention from getting fresh water. The villagers sent a petition to the Collector. It was sent for enquiry which was held and finished. I do not know the result. After the petition was sent they filed suits on the villagers for cattle trespass. There seems to be compromise between them afterwards. A similar petition was filed on 2nd December 1934. I am filing the same. The peculiarity about this is that the karnams who wrote the thing in land-vari register have issued the receipts for grazing tax.

In the cowle No. 281 is noted as belonging to the Raja under the head Na-layakh Barjar. The same number is under fresh head. The witness showed the plan of Laxmi-puram village and explained the same. In 1890 it was shown as forest. Previous to that it was included in the poramboke.

Receipts for pullari are given and I am filing them. There used to be prickly-pear there. It can be seen from pullari registers that they are enhancing the rate and creating new rights for themselves. (Filed pullari receipts.)

Our Ryots' Association has examined estate lists villagevari and after enquiry prepared a list of the details of encroachments and occupation by the zamindar. I am filing same.

Peda Kallepalli, Bhogireddipalli, Mamillapalli, etc., villages had mamul wet lands. They were cultivated from tanks which were filled up when the Kistna was in floods. Tekupalli had an Alugu channel—a natural canal. It was dammed by the estate and no water is allowed to flow. That land was converted into waste land. It is being used as a cattle grazing ground. They used to pay tax, now they are not giving. Now they are collecting pullari. In 1890 a survey was made and 400 acres was shown as one block. The land register of 1890 is in the Collector's office. You can get and see it. They are collecting pullari on the mamul wet land. A survey is being conducted now in 1937-38 after the east bank canal was dug. When the villagers went there to till they were prevented by the estate authorities saying that the land had been kept for own cultivation. I am filing the petition sent in regard to this alugu. (He files the petition.)

Q.—What were you saying yesterday? A.—About mamul wet of Pedakallapalli. It is an impartible estate. It was registered in the name of his wife as allowance, even during the lifetime of the Raja. It was done with the idea of giving the kamatam right to the ryots there.

Q.—Was it after the estate was declared impartible? A.—Yes. I am presenting the kamatam receipts given to me. It was written in the name of his wife in about fasli 1929.

Q.—Was a document executed and registered? A.—I do not know that. From these receipts we think that it was transferred in her name. From what we heard then, they have given it in the name of Visalakshamma Garu. We did not try to understand this on behalf of our society also. These are receipts of the years 1905, 1910, 1913, 1921 and 1926. The estate is now in their name only. It came in the time of his father Ankineedu Garu. As soon as Ankineedu Garu's regime commenced in 1923 she got it changed to her name.

Q.—Can it not be given as allowance? A.—It was given to create third party interest.

Q.—Is she living? A.—Visalakshamma Garu is no more.

Q.—We do not understand what you say? A.—It was shown as if it was Visalakshamma's. There is no survey number in the receipts. I do not know where the patta number is. They brought Pedavegi village in West Godavari district. There used to be a land by the tank in which tobacco was grown. Now we are not allowed to step into the forest by the side of it. We requested them in vain, to reduce the previous tax and assess jeru kist. We want abolition of pullari and right to get fuel, etc. They want that every ryot should present them with a ram for Dasara. Ryots request the abolition of these customs. They are collecting 2 annas per acre as Vetti-Kheridula. The karnam, nayak, etc., village servants are maintained by the Government. Before the Government undertook to maintain them they used to collect money for their maintenance. They used to collect bengalgram, etc. Even though the Government is



maintaining them vettikheridulu are being collected even now. There is no rule and rhyme for this. Motarpha for palmyras is being still collected. For palmyras which are bearing fruit, it is Rs. 8 and for others it is Rs. 5 per 100. It is since the advent of the Estates Land Act. Even though they are collecting for land produce, it is unjust to assess separately for fruit trees now. We have to pay kist even for numbers where there are no palm trees.

Q.—Have you paid? A.—I did not pay.

Q.—Are they papers to show that it was paid? A.—There are receipts for the money collected for palmyras. We file them. It is always happening that the Ryots' Association is sending representations and the ryots submitting petitions. Suits also were filed. In the case of Chinakallepalli their decisions to the effect that the taxes are illegal. The patta system was put into effect at the time of the permanent settlement so that the ryots may not unjustly suffer. Sanads were issued stating that that condition should be strictly enforced. If it is not done so, the ryots were given the right to file suits for damages. In spite of all these there is always trouble when the question of the relinquishment comes up. With the amendment of 1934 they were made more stringent. According to that section the whole mistake seems to be with the ryot. It was amended that a fee of 8 annas should be collected to send the pattas to the zamindar. The ryot's condition did not improve a bit even though registration is introduced now.

Q.—Whose is the mistake? A.—The estate's. The lands were not leased and received by the ryots. So it was expected that relinquishment of pattas, etc., would be a protection to the ryots but it proved to be a string round their necks. They must be automatically registered. When the Tahsildar changes them after scrutiny by marking it, in accordance with the survey and record of rights in every state without reference to pattas. As the population increases in the country, more housing accommodation is required. It is becoming necessary to build houses in seri lands. When houses are built like that the kist on such lands should be abolished. When the island land fall away the ryot gets no income at all. For fear of losing kudivaram right if tax is not paid and for fear of not getting the land back if it silts up again they are paying taxes. To collect like that is very unjust.

Q.—You should not say generally. Quote individual cases. A.—I got island land in Srikakulam also. They are collecting tax. When it silted up it was not given. We have been paying taxes for the last ten or fifteen years. A big piece of land cropped up. There were complaints from the ryots that the collection of taxes was troublesome. They are arguing that tax is collected only for the remaining land showing the area in accounts, as it actually is. Even dwelling places are being inundated. When we build our houses on another site after inundation, tax is collected for that even—ordinary lands. When the house-sites silt up again, it is not given to the ryots but is appropriated by the zamindar himself.

Q.—You must realize one thing. This Committee was appointed by the Legislature. If you say that they have somewhere given you statement and affidavit and bring them to us, they do not come into our consideration. You have enquired. Is it not? It is not necessary here. Can we examine all the ryots in the world. You must give us by points. We cannot go through them all if you go on narrating all things elaborately. If you begin to say for days together that you have received some memoranda there, etc., are they also documents here?

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Are there small islands also in this estate? Are they surveyed? A.—There are. No survey was conducted.

Q.—The tax paid to the zamindar is about Rs. 4,000. The zamindar's own kamatam in 1958 was one katti. The zamindar and the ryots have come to an agreement. This 4,000 acres is in four plots. Part is zamindar's own cultivation. Part is nanal grass. They have reserved part as reserve and another portion was reserved as waste. They change it every year by auctioning it. Nanal and grass are sold. There was no tax for materials brought from the forest previously. I do not know if that it is imposed now.

Q.—Are the lands accreted again given to the ryots? A.—Unless tax was paid even in the interval, they are not giving.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—If the cultivation is like that in lankas, how can they be accreted in the ryotwari tracts. Is the Government using only places with lankas? A.—Government is auctioning. There are no lankas for the adjacent Government village. I do not know those details.



Q.—Do you like to have the rate prevalent in ryotwari tracts? A.—They must be on a par with Government rates. They are in the Government unassessed waste and forest area. They belong to the Government. They are granted to the people on application. Hills and forests were removed from the A. register as not being communal lands. But we think they are not forest lands. Neither is it waste banjar. Nalayak banjar—land not fit for cultivation. All villages were surveyed excepting lankas.

Q.—What reasons have you to say that they are wrong? A.—396 is an instance. I told you yesterday. It was 70 cents less. We did not take account of the whole. We wish that the lanka in which we live should be surveyed.

Q.—Is it enough if the system of administration adopted in the Government is put into force here on the same conditions? A.—That much is enough.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Do you like disallowing it if it is disallowed in the Government? A.—It should not be disallowed.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are you the Secretary of the Ryots' Association? A.—I am the Secretary for the last two years. This year there are 2,000 ryots as members. I cannot give you the actual figure for the last year. The patta for our 40 acres is in the name of my father. Adjacent to us on that side of the river there are lankas belonging to Government Kollur village. I cannot give the rates prevalent there. Canals are not being repaired. Petitions were sent to the Collector from Mangalapuram about the enhanced rates but not from our village. I do not know how much is granted by the estate for the repair of channels, etc.

Q.—Even after the Estates Land Act the taxes were never enhanced in your estate. Is it not? A.—They were enhanced in two or three ways. I was telling you yesterday that in Ramannapet, a suit was filed alleging that it was not ryot's land and praying that the kamatam should be enhanced. They contested that it belonged to the ryot and that the court had no jurisdiction. Even though in the judgment it was noted that it was ryot's land with no kamatan. They had muchilikas registered at enhanced rates. We filed pattas.

Q.—Is your own village being surveyed? You have no loss if it is according to that survey? A.—If they are assessed at 53 cents per kunta rate instead of 50 cents it is a loss to the ryot. Three kinds of survey is in force in our village now. Even the present is not a complete survey.

Q.—Is it because that the estate has got possession of the ryot's lands? A.—They have encroached but I cannot show any records for it.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—What is to be done with lands which are unclaimed by heirs? A.—It must be ryoti land (common land).

Q.—You were saying that the estate authorities occupied some lands of najeru, etc. It was decided in the High Court that the lands belonged to the estate? A.—I do not know.

Q.—How are you saying without knowing it? A.—It must be changed in such a way that even the decrees of the High Court should not affect the ryot. I do not know that the ryots had engaged vakils in the High Court to plead for them in these cases.

Q.—Have you filed papers about the communal lands? A.—We filed. The zamindar has appropriated.

Q.—You said that Chammarisetti Sivayya was granted the poramboke land. Was it appropriated? A.—I do not know.

Q.—Was the Collector informed of the same? A.—The trouble is only on that account that they are informing the Collector.

Q.—In what state is what you call the forest land? A.—Our content is that it is not forest. Here and there it is like waste land. From 1918 it was not in the possession of the estate. Pullari is being collected from 1922. It was in the communal register originally. Now it is not in the A. register. It was removed as the result of a petition to the Collector. When the Government got forest canals constructed our association was not in good order. No petition was received by our association stating that the canals were dug on an unjust basis.

Q.—Who is paying the road-cess on lands? A.—We believe that the zamindar is not paying them. Road-cess must be collected on assessed lands. No endorsement was received on a petition sent to the Collector.

Q.—Is the forest land fit for cultivation? A.—It is fit for grazing cattle. Bits are being brought under cultivation now. Pattas have been granted for the last two or three years.



Q.—Did you not object? A.—We wanted to strengthen our records before we filed our objection. We have not as yet filed our objections.

Q.—Applications were sent requesting grant of forest lands to the ryot for cultivation? A.—They might have applied.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Did the Government include those lands in that year in the B. form? A.—They included.

Q.—Are there suits pending now between the Government and the zamindar? A.—Yes.

Q.—Even in Government villages it is the karnams that affect patta transfers. Is there delay? A.—No, there is no delay.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: I know from heresay that the forest area is removed from A. registers. I do not know that the Government issued an order stating that the survey of 1890 is not binding on the estate. There may be the custom, prevalent, in our estate of encroaching upon ryot's porambokes, etc. I cannot say when the Raja of Challapalli bought Pedavegi village. Zarib taxes are not collected now. For that land they are now collecting Rs. 22. If Rs. 6 is collected we do not grudge. It is being collected from me even when the lanka is washed away. I relinquished some lands. When that portion was accreted they appropriated the same. The karnams are appointed by the zamindars though they have no power over them. The karnams are not keeping the accounts well. We sent a report to the Collector. If houses are built in seri lands they are being assessed at 20 times the rate.

Witness No. 92.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sirasam Bojji Dora, son of Potti Dora of Penkilapadu, Rampa Chodavaram agency.

Land that had an assessment of Rs. 10 30 years back is taxed Rs. 30 now. Taxes have been enhanced heavily. Now it is enhanced to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40. Our zamindar Mirza is in Tuni. I have got 10 acres of land and cannot now give an estimate of the total extent of the village lands. Land which was assessed at Rs. 10 before is now assessed Rs. 40. In some cases it is Rs. 43 and odd also. Before the Land Act it used to be Rs. 10. It was not enhanced in one instalment. It was done by occasional instalments. For two years there was an enhancement of 8 annas. Three years afterwards Re. 1 was added. I have no papers with me. Papers are in my lodge. I did not know that there is a committee enquiry. I thought there would be a public meeting here. I shall file them afterwards. There are papers to show that the taxes had been enhanced. Taxes must be reduced. Not only this tank must also be constructed. Tanks are not being repaired. Water is not retained.

To questions put by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, the witness said: There is no account of land measurement and nothing. No survey was ever conducted. My lands were not surveyed. We accept to pay a certain amount on a mere visual estimate of the land. For a certain extent a certain sum is to be paid. We accept this and cultivate. Of the 10 acres I possess 3 acres is under tank irrigation. I cultivate paddy. In dry land we sow cholam, javari, etc. The tank supplies water for three villages. There are 300 people in our village. Channels are flowing out. We are struggling for our belly. If the Godavari is in floods our tanks are full. We then cultivate. There are hills around our village. It is very difficult for us whether the rain is heavy or scanty. There is forest beside our lands. The trouble from wild animals is great. Wild pigs ravage our crops. We cannot even sleep. We have to keep awake the whole night by turns. If we sleep, wild pigs eat away the crop. There are guns with the help of which we guard. Males and females have to work hard. The ayacut of our village will be about seven or eight thousand acres of which 5,000 acres is under cultivation. If the Godavari is in floods some more lands are cultivated.

Dharmaraju is our village manager. I do not know where he is.

The tax on the grass in our village forest had been enhanced. The forest is near the village. We have got the custom of doing podu in our hills for a very long time. Now they are enhancing the taxes are taking possession of it. I have no podu cultivation. Podu cultivation is being taxed for the last twenty years. Before that there was no tax for that.



For getting home fuel, leaves, etc., from the forest they demand hens, maize and one or two rupees. If we refuse to give they are carried to another village and auctioned there. This is all done by the estate clerks, guards and tanadars. The tana for our village is in Devipatnam, four miles off. There is no muttadar in our village. There is Mulapadu mokhasa belonging to Dantuluri varu.

Forty years back, when I was young, they used to take only one cock, one pumpkin and one rupee for any extent of cultivation. It was given to the muttadar. Afterwards there used to be ijaradars under the zamindars. For a family they used to pay Rs. 10 for any extent they tilled and cultivated. There is no remission in our village. We can cultivate as much as is necessary for family needs. After the Estates Land Act it was assessed at Rs. 30. Now it is Rs. 35-4-0. In eleven years it increased to so much. I do not know the extent of land. It was never measured.

To questions put by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, the witness said: For my 10 acres I am paying Rs. 40. All of us, males and females, go to the forest to get fuel, etc., to supplement our income by some sort of coolie-like profession. They take possession of them. We have got right, but they are undermining it. We cannot sell the lands in our village. Nor can we buy. In spite of an order like that it is going on. A complaint to the Police is worse still. If any ryots files a case, cocks have to be carried for the village officers and the Police. The Police connected with our village are in Polavaram. The villagers filed some charges against the estate guards. Our Police thought that the charge was false and they were thrown out. They also recommended prosecution for the complainants. Adjoining our estate there is Pittapur Estate land.

There is much free service in our village. We have to serve the zamindars as well as Government servants. Never a pie is paid as coolie. Some good high officers alone pay.

We cannot sell our lands in our village, yet it is still going on. Zamindars do all this. We did not send petitions to the Collector. We are afraid of the zamindar. We are just people. We always act justly. If we speak we act according to it.

In our village Rs. 60 is collected for 10 acres. It is in the records.

Another trick is played. One man paid tax for three years. The ryot died. His wife is ignorant. Sons are young. Wife knows nothing. A notice was served stating that there were arrears of Rs. 60 for 10 acres. The zamindars did something privately. The zamindar appropriated that land. The Government had a rule enacted that there should be no buying or selling. This is zamindar's rule.

It is profitable if lands are not allowed to be sold. I can assure you that all our people are of the same opinion. All unjust methods are prevalent in our village. Money-lenders and zamindars are deceiving people. It is better if land is not allowed to be sold. We are neglected owing to our being in the Agency. We want to come into the light. Please make the lands unsaleable.

The Government should establish a bank. They should advance us loans on condition of receiving back samans and paddy. The depots must be opened for articles. We get from the hills timber, bamboos, tangedu, vinugudu, all these and fuel. Now it is in the hands of the money-lenders. They are not paying properly. For a bamboo bundle they pay 8 annas. The whole family has to toil for getting one bundle of bamboo. After getting it they pay only 8 annas; one kuncham of paddy—they say they will pay but they give only six solas. Calculated the total comes to 1 anna 6 pies. For the toil of four or five people for a whole, each of them gets 3 pies.

To Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja's question, the witness said: The same bamboos are sold for Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. The money-lenders pay the zamindars something. We take chits from the money-lenders. The zamindars collect some money from the money-lenders. The forest is grouped out and granted to money-lenders. The articles brought from the forest must be given to him alone. If we do not give like that our bulls, etc., are auctioned. The taxes of our village are collected by the zamindars. The talavars of Pittapur villages pay them the taxes.

To questions put by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said: We have to enter even Government forest only with a chit. Money-lenders issue the chits. There are muttadars in Government villages but not in estate villages. There are only mokhasadars.

To question put by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, the witness said: The money-lender gives advance. We have no money even to pay taxes. We have to render them service again. We take chits from them and give them the articles. The money-lender and the zamindar enter into an agreement. The money-lender even cannot supply to other zamindars. If they do so, they are deprived of the right and another is granted the same.



To questions put by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said: Forty years back the taxes were less. They were enhanced after that with the advent of the Estates Land Act. If our village tanks are repaired 7, 8 thousands of acres can be cultivated. Now there are about 5, 6 thousand acres in cultivation. There are people to cultivate. People will migrate from adjacent villages, if wanted. I am living in Penkilipadu village. There are hills round about our village and we live among them. We are Koya Dorais.

I shall file the records afterwards.

Witness No. 93.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Choday Naganna Dora of Gondur.**

Ours was a village of the Polavaram zamindari. Now it is in Pittapur Estate. The taxes are now higher than before. When Subbayya Garu was living, they were less. Papayya Garu and Subbayya Garu used to keep the tanks well repaired in their management. My father was a covledar. Two tanks were newly constructed. Then it was Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per acre. For dry it was 6 annas, 8 annas. It was in my younger days. I have got 4 acres of land. There are no repairs to the tanks now. Stone and lime had been washed away. The banks are alright but the sluices are breached. The Engineer came and examined. The next year four people were sent to repair the same. They came to our village and demanded a sheep alleging it was required for the purpose. They threw a hundred baskets of earth saying that they were working on behalf of the contractor. There was rain that night and the new and old was washed away. It is after the village was transferred to the Pittapur Estate that the Engineer inspected. Taxes are high. We sow horsegram and castor seeds in the dry land. I have got on the whole 30 acres. Two acres is wet which is assessed at Rs. 4 per acre. I am paying Rs. 12 for dry. I have got 7 acres hilly land. It is better that a survey is conducted and a rate of Rs. 2 for wet and Re. 1 for dry is fixed. More than this will be felt as heavy. We cannot say. There are two tanks. Sluices are washed and edges are broken. The zamindar must be made to get them repaired. He agreed and enhanced the taxes. They pleaded that the taxes were enhanced after repairs were carried out but no repairs were made. Though Papayya Garu had tanks dug, taxes were not enhanced. If you inspect the same personally, you will see.

We had rights in regard to fruit trees. We used to enjoy all kinds of fruits paying nothing before the Act. Now there are no such rights.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness said: There hill podu is in our village. Tax is being collected for them also. The zamindars used to collect nothing for the past three years' cultivation of the podus. After that Re. 1 or Rs. 1-8-0 used to be collected. If we fell trees they trouble us filing charges.

We used to graze our cattle in the forest freely. For a very long time we used to get all our agricultural requirements from the forest free of charge as per the order of the Collector. Our village is connected with the agency.

As long as it was in Polavaram Estate pattas were granted. After it was transferred to Pittapur, pattas are not yet granted. We are not so intelligent.

They sometimes issue receipts for taxes paid and occasionally they do not.

We want to leave the agency and migrate. We are ignorant of good and bad. We want to come out.

Ours is forest land. There are no papers. Letters are torn off. Why should we die there?

Some papers are in Polavaram and some are here. I shall file them, sir.

Witness No. 94.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Jasti Chendranna of Rajapalaiyam, Gangole estate.**

We can say nothing about rate in our village. There is account in acres—no survey and no measurement. In our villages calculation according to "kattalu" and "man-chelu" are in vogue. 'Manche' means the extent of land which can be covered by



a stone flown by Vadisela from a platform erected in the field. "Katti" is the extent of land that can be cut in a forest. In the forest we cultivate dry crops. We used to pay sixty years back Re. 1 for katti and Rs. 4 for manche. Then contract system prevailed. We have got pollu also. We call them chelakas. The rates for all these were enhanced. For 'manche' it is enhanced from Rs. 4 to Rs. 7. Our village lands were surveyed ten or twelve years back. From Rs. 4 it was raised to Rs. 10. Hilly lands are all wastes, with sandy soil. The rate for them is not less than Rs. 4 anywhere. No yield. In former days joda kunchedu was collected for manche for the zamindar. Kunchedu for horse-keeper. We used to pay local tittulu. One bag for candy was deducted. We used to pay kunchedu for peon and another for charity. The peons were present at the time of harvest. We had to pay two kunches per day to them. We had to pay for ten days. Two hundred kunchams make one candy. One bag holds about 20-25 kunchams. Half and half is enjoyed.

We have got hill streams. We have to pay at the rate of Rs. 10 for cultivation under these. For some years they had these surveyed and got them converted into own seris. There is about 4 acres of own wet seri. After the advent of the Act they increased to 12 acres. There are seris in Gangula Gopavaram, Rajupalaiyam, Buchipalaiyam. All are seris. They get our thumb-prints and take away the papers. No pattas or muchilikas are granted.

We have no village common land. The extent cleared in the forest is occupied. Vacant sites are being sold. They are raising buildings. They are taking back lands from ryots—the whole extent of lands of Marumani Ramanayudu had be resumed. They are occupying even lands granted by the Government. There was about 4,000 acres of ryot jirayati land. There were mango, cashewnut and coconut trees there. All these were encroached upon. The man that speaks against the zamindar must be prepared to lose his house. They make his position irksome until he leaves the village. Koyas were made to feel if they join the Congress. In Kurapadu a house was demolished and set fire to.

The zamindars take free service in the construction of houses and paddy storages. They do not pay cartage. All are troubles for Koyas. There are no banjar lands.

There used to be a tank on the boundary of Rayapudi and Dondapudi. It had been changed into seri for nine years. It was auctioned for mango and coconut gardens. Rs. 10 is collected for acre. The tanks are no more. Six thousand acres were cultivated under this tank. There is a breach to the tank which can even now be seen. There is a hole as ling as a thumb. The land cultivated under it is still there but no water is retained in the tank.

Taxes must be reduced. They take paddy at the rate of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per bag in lieu of payment for taxes.

They are not allowing to get anything from forests. In our village puntahs (paths) are also encroached upon. Cattle are impounded. The ryots are afraid. They are starving. Seventy acres had been occupied for mango garden. Government inam land (1 acre) belonging to Maruveni Ramaswami and 4 acres of the poramboke has been occupied.

We are afraid to return to the village again.

Witness No. 95.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mrs. Kamoori Lakshmi Kantamma (woman), Rajampalem.

I had 14 acres of land. There is no arrears of rent which was about Rs. 30. It was under joint patta. The whole lot except one acre was auctioned and appropriated. I have got one sister and my old mother. They are also widows and are living with me. I have got one child. We are Vysyas. There is no other male to help me. There are no receipts for payments of taxes by me. I am filing them.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU, the witness said: I had 14 acres. Seven acres was wet and 7 acres dry. Now there is only one acre remaining. I used to pay Rs. 30 tax for all together. Two years back the whole lot was auctioned and appropriated. They had my thumb impression and had a relinquishment deed executed. I have not got a copy of it.

To questions put by the Raja Sahib of Mirzapuram, the witness said: I have got only one acre now. No papers at all with me. The whole land was sandy soil. Amarakam for the whole land was Rs. 130. We were paying a tax of Rs. 30.



Witness No. 96.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mrs. Meka Seetamma of Gonada, Katravulapalli estate.**

Five months back they had my land auctioned for so-called arrears of tax and an amount of Rs. 197 was collected. It is joint patta land and it is in the name of three of us. My son is a minor. My sister-in-law and brother-in-law are joint pattadars.

There was no arrears of tax. There are receipts. (Produced receipts and filed them.) Other receipts for Rs. 40 are with Gangaraju Garu who will not give them. I paid the whole tax amount. There is Gopala Rao Garu of Chinna Diwanam.

My brother-in-law is Appalaswami. He is the son of Meka Nukayya. They auctioned for an arrears of Rs. 149-8-3 due from him. I have paid all taxes for my part. There are no arrears.

I approached the Collector through our wakil Konde Suryanarayana Rao. I spent about Rs. 30. A petition was sent to the Collector. Our wakil was paid more by the zamindar and turned round. I was not informed about the endorsement on my petition. I do not know what had happened to it up till now. I represented to Gopal Rao Garu, Diwanam. I said it was unjust. My land was bought by Nilam Kapu-Venkatramanna.

Four plots were bought. They said that my brother-in-law sold them and so they were auctioned. They occupied it: Peddada Krishna Rao Garu—Peda Diwanan. I did not come out for fear of infamy.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said: House and lands were auctioned for Rs. 250 and Rs. 600, respectively. They auctioned it with the consent of my sister-in-law.

We are much afraid that our house might have, by this time, been demolished. Polavaram is 8 miles away from us.

Witness No. 97.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Vamur Ramanna, son of Narasayya, Gangolu.**

Ramnayak is my son. He died. My daughter adopted a son. Her paternal property was 4 acres and 18 cents and acre 1.18 in all 5 kuntas. They appropriated the whole as seri just six months back. Nothing was paid to us. It was taken under the plea of laying a road and taking earth. The karnam and munsif had my thumb-impression on a piece of paper. He had some lies written there. I sent two petitions. None will bear witness because all are afraid. Mine is Gangolu village.

Witness No. 98.

Rajahmundry.

18th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Namala Appalaswami, son of Venkataswami of Masalayyapuram (Krishnapuram zamin).**

There are no cowles for our lands. All is forest land. No crops are grown. We live like this in the forests. Seven or eight years back we planted some cashewnut plants. I have no land. We live by eating vegetables and wild fruits. We had been living like that for a long time. Five or six years back the garden was auctioned for Rs. 1,255 rent. The crop was lessening. We had it struck off in our name. We had houses built and yards arranged. There is no way out—only one way was left. There are about thirty houses on either side. It was hedged and only one pathway was left. Only one latrine was arranged for males and females. We cannot live like this. We live eating the cashewnut fruits. It is after the Pittapur estate took charge that it was auctioned. We have been troubled like this for the last four months. We felt that it will be difficult for us and so we all joined together and had it in the bid. There are no receipts nor any papers. We are paying the instalments in time. Pathways have been closed. They want to force us into submission. We had been enjoying for generations paying nothing at all.



We have got jirayati lands. We cultivate the same by pampulu or pieces. We take 10 acres each for cultivation. It is still in our possession. It used to be Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. The same extent is taxed Rs. 55. They are not allowing our cattle to walk through the pathways for the last four months. The whole land was occupied. If we keep the cattle in herds they demand Rs. 1-8-0. Fifty plots have been given away. Tamarind, soapnut and palmyra trees have all become dry. We used to enjoy the fruits. Now the zamindars are taking them away along with our lives.

We planted pudene trees in the shade. It would have yielded five gaingas per family for sixty families. Now it is not in our possession. We are paying Rs. 2,000 and odd. As the money is in other lands we are paying the whole. We are being troubled in all ways. Karnam and munsif threaten us with impounding our cattle on the plea of their entering the forest. They demand pullari for goats.

It is nine years since they began to auction. They began to lease out lands in the forest, throughout though it is a broken piece of land. Even that was opened for auction cowles. We cannot live.

There are 400 goats and sheep in our village. They are worth about Rs. 100. There are no carts, trams, etc. They demanded pullari and they are troubling us by impounding them. If the calf trespass they take possession of it and if the cow also goes there in search of it they try to milk the cow for their own use. No receipts are granted. The roads on the four sides of our village have been closed. The karnams and munsifs will not recommend grant of grama kantams unless they are tipped. We are being put to all sorts of troubles.

Penalty is being enhanced. For a goat they collect 4 annas. High penalties are imposed upon all the cattle.

I have got 60 acres of land, in five pattas. We pay for all a total amount of Rs. 300.

Witness No. 100.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Marina Subba Rao, son of Venkayya, aged 35 years, cultivation, Garlamadugu village, Challapalli or Pedavegi estate.**

Questioned by the Chairman: Since five or six years we have been requesting the estate authorities to cancel the jarib rate and levy in its place a paddy rate. When the jarib does not yield anything we are cultivating paddy. There is no road or a path to go to the Magarlamadugu forest. A block of 200 acres of forest is existing. It has been sold to the ryots. The way into it has been closed by those ryots. There is a Government road but it is as distant as three miles. The tank is also impeding the cultivation of tobacco. There is no wet number in our village. But there is about 20 to 30 acres of jarib land converted into wet land. The income per acre is Rs. 200. Excluding the cost of cultivation, a surplus of Rs. 50 remains. If paddy is cultivated, the yield will be eight or nine bag-fuls. All expenditure must be covered by that yield. Hence no gain accrues.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: The Raja of Challapalli sold all those 200 acres. When we cultivated tobacco we never felt a rate of Rs. 22 to be high. It will not be high if jarib is cultivated. But now jarib cannot be cultivated. As we are cultivating paddy that rate is high. As I have a great experience in tobacco cultivation, I know better. There will be no profit. If it rains when the tobacco is dried, the whole yield will be lost.

Witness No. 101.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Chandra Vidyasagarayya, son of Venkata Narasimham, aged 38 years, cultivation, Mangalapuram, Challapalli estate or Devarakota.**

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Did you ever send a written memorandum? A.—Nothing except what I submitted now.

Q.—Are there any ryots' associations in your estate? A.—Yes. They are existing since three or four years. But I am not a member. I own 150 acres of land. Of that about 70 or 80 acres are in the estate. Recently it has been included under the ayacut



of the East Bank canal. We cultivated 40 acres. The rate in some of the villages is 8 annas and Rs. 2 in some. Especially for our dry lands the rate ranges from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 3. There is custom of paying any rate when we cultivate wet lands. Hitherto we have been paying rates for dry lands. The Government provided us facilities of wet lands. We requested the Government to cancel the ayacut nazarana. We have already cultivated the land thinking that the Congress Ministry will remove that. In our village we have arranged that we shall pay 5 annas per acre instead of paying any water-rate (bodi rate). The rate for cultivating wet lands in the neighbouring Government areas is up to Rs. 4. Our rates are lesser. We beg that the rates may not be increased after making a settlement. On condition that wet lands will be cultivated, the estate authorities are levying Re. 1 per acre. It was agreed that the zamindar will construct and repair the small bodi canals ( *అంజెలు* ) in Daleparru and our village. We have arranged that we have to pay 5 annas per acre, on condition that the ryots have to look after the bodi canals. We were not provided with well-defined common lands for our village. We are not informed of the extent of it if at all it exists. Even now there are common lands and accounts are maintained for them. But yet when they are termed seri lands, the ryots are occupying them. The land is decreasing in extent. I have not occupied or encroached on any land. Even burial-grounds and paths are being occupied.

Q.—Is the zamindar also occupying in like manner? A.—I don't know about it, Sir. I cannot tell the exact extent of the zamindari poramboke of our village. I can only say that ways and paths which were hitherto broad enough have become very narrow. There is a burial-ground in our village to the extent of 3 or 4 acres. If that is encroached upon, it will be a loss to the village.

By Mr. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—'A' register is maintained stating the extent of the poramboke. Is it not? A.—Yes. Even then encroachments are being made. We did not send any petition to the Collector.

Q.—Did they prepare a new 'A' register during the revision survey? A.—I don't know that. The Raja filed suits against the Government regarding common lands.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Did they survey your village? A.—The Government survey is carried on now.

Q.—Was it ever surveyed before this time? A.—Yes, sir, in 1924. As far as I know, it was surveyed in 1890 for lands watered by engines. But this survey is not yet enforced in our village. Our opinion is that jamabandi is necessary. We contend that there must be remission of taxes even in the zamindari areas.

Q.—What is the way of collecting taxes if not by filing of suits? A.—Just as they are collecting in the Government areas. If each year's demand is collected punctually, the ryots will not incur any unnecessary expenditure.

Q.—How much is the palmyra tax in your village? A.—It was generally 2 or 3 pies.

Q.—Did they enforce that after the enactment of the Estates Land Act? A.—Some of the trees would have died. In our opinion, that tax may be kindly cancelled. The zamindar did not encroach upon the whole forest. But he is cultivating under his control.

Question by Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : In the case of communal lands, occupation or encroachment is unjust. There are two or three communal tanks in our village. There are no palmyra trees there. There are bushes. My son-in-law is appointed in the zamindar's service as a teacher. In the last election, I did not work as an agent of the zamindar. The legal proceedings are being carried on. Some of the ryots agreed : some are contesting. They succeeded in the revenue court and the district court. The case is pending in the High Court. They filed a suit asserting that they should get Rs. 1-4-0 when it is decided. Afterwards the ryots agreed to pay 5 annas. It was sent to the High Court before they agreed to pay. It is still pending. The ryots agreed to the collection of Re. 1 per acre only on condition that the zamindar will look after the bodi canals.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : After installing the engine, the rate for dry lands increased by Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. In dry lands, tobacco, maize, javery and dry paddy are cultivated. When it was made wet, paddy is being cultivated.

Q.—Is it a practice either to give the land for rent or for kattubadi? A.—Giving on cash payment is the practice. If privately given the rate will range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25. If crops like mirchi (chillies) are cultivated, the rent will be great in the seri patta lands only. The prices in our village are Rs. 250 for wet and Rs. 300 for dry lands.



Q.—Those Challapalli ryots who gave the witnesses hitherto worked against the Raja. Is it not? A.—Yes, Sir, I have come here to express before you explicitly the difference between us and those people. My purpose in coming here is to show you that it is absurd to increase the rates where it is less.

Q.—Are you not representing Mandeswara Sharma Garu? A.—I have not come to represent anybody.

The Zamindar of Mirzapuram said as follows on an objection raised by Mr. R. Mandeswara Sharma :—

The witnesses that are now about to appear before us are induced by Mr. Mandeswara Sharma to do so. He is appointing witnesses to say that there are zamindari ryots' associations in the Congress itself. But unknown to him, some of them are independent witnesses. I am clarifying the situation before the Committee. The President may do as it pleases him. But nobody has the right to object the Committee members' actions.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Are there any estates other than Challapalli? A.— Yes, Sir, there is the Vuyyur estate.

Q.—Do you know the difference between the Challapalli estate and the Vuyyur estate? A.—I know nothing except that of my own village.

Witness No. 102.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Nadella Surayya, son of Bheemayya, aged 55 years, cultivator, Amadalalanka, hamlet of Nadakuduru, Chellapalli estate.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Did you write any thing in particular about islands? (உசை)

A.—I have got ten acers in an island. We cultivate tobacco, javery, etc. The wet lands are not prevailing here. We have not cultivated wet crops. The rates range between Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 3-12-0.

Q.—How are the Government rates in your neighbourhood? A.—It is Rs. 6-4-0 for the Government lands.

Q.—Do you say that the same burden should not be placed on you? A.—Yes. When the river will be on floods additional sand will be placed on our lands. It affects our cultivation. I request that the rate for the islands may be reduced.

Q.—What is the yield per acre for your lands? A.—Some years, there will be no yield. When it yields, we get Rs. 25 per acre. If the dry crops are affected by pest the yield will be Rs. 10. The Nuzvid estate is nearby and also Vallur estate lands. I don't know their rates. They also grow dry land crops—tobacco, javery, etc., just as in our lands. When amani was converted into veesabadi they prepared a rate. They were collecting according to that rate. I don't know if they have changed it afterwards. I don't know why the patta transfers are not being made. That causes some difficulty to us. There is no jamabandi. If it is to be instituted we can express our grievances and hope for redress. Remission was never made for the seri kists. Even though the seri lands as are inundated or flooded, the same taxes are collected. If we leave them they don't interfere. If we don't file the release deed, they still collect the tax irrespective of the fact that the lands are inundated. When islands are formed again only those that have been paying the taxes were provided with lands. Even for our lands the same difficulties are to be faced. It was inundated four years back. But we were given back lands only for which we were paying taxes. We request that all our lands may be restored to us, and that all the lands may be surveyed. In seri villages, where there are water-sources, the Rajah Saheb is conducting some repairs on request.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Some say that in similarity with the Government rates the taxes should be increased where there are lower. Do you object to our doing like that. A.—We are requesting that our present rates may be reduced.



**Questioned by the Chairman:** The same rates are prevailing in all places even though they are not island lands. To safeguard the banks, rellu grass must be planted and black stone must be placed on the banks to strengthen them. When our cattle sheds become useless and when we go to other places to construct houses temporarily, there should be no tax for that. Joint pattas must be transferred. Jamabandi is a necessity. Encroachments are made into porambokes. Two-thirds of the 11 acres of the common lands are encroached. The remaining part is not sufficient for the traffic of carts and man. We petitioned to the zamindar and the Government also but no action is taken.

Witness No. 103.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Dasari Ammanna, son of Gangayya, aged 60 years, cultivator, Gokavaram village, Nelligoodi mokhasa.**

To questions put by the Chairman he answered as follows :—

Nellipondi is an agency tract. Our village is in Rajahmundry taluk. The mokhasadar is Madhuveeti Erramraju Garu. I don't know the limit or extent. It is stated in four or five places that it is situated in the boundary. It is not yet surveyed. I am paying a tax of Rs. 82. It yields a little quantity of grain. I provide grass to the calves with that. The maximum yield of grain will be 10 candies. The tank is the source of water. The tank is in need of repair since twenty or thirty years. It was surveyed last year and the mokasadar increased the taxes. It was not properly surveyed. No Government employee surveyed it. It is all humbug. A name-sake measurement was done. Hither to the tax for the mokhasa was Rs. 1,200. Since last year, it has become more than Rs. 6,000. After increasing the taxes, I was asked to pay Rs. 400. I was not given any notice. Nor did he demand. He simply asked me. Pattas and muchilikas were never executed. He is in Rampa Errapalem. We cannot pay the enhanced rates. When crops fail remissions should be made. There are five or six tanks. Having some grudge on us, during harvest time, i.e., three months back, he ordered that the Oora cheruvu (village tank) should be cut. All the water was allowed to flow out through the canal. Even though we reported to the Collector, no action was taken. We are forbidden from taking the yield of the trees that are in the fields such as tamarind. He filed suits on us for storing manure in our yards which are situated on the road side. I was fined Rs. 4 in the Ellavaram court. Still he is threatening us that he will cut the banks of the tanks. The Collector ordered that the enhanced rates need not be paid. He ordered that all the costs should be borne by the mokhasadar. I express our inability to pay the heavy taxation.

Witness No. 105.

Rajahmundry.

19th January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Achanta Satyanarayana, son of Visweswara Somayajulu, aged 42 years, cultivator, Pithapuram.**

The first witness examined was Mr. Yanamandra Sambasiva Sastri, wakil, Narasarrowpeta. He deposed in English.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Did you submit a memorandum? A.—No, Sir I have come to depose what I know from my experience. I am not following any memorandum.



Questioned by the Chairman, he stated as follows :—

I am a ryot of the Pittapuram Estate. We own lands that are in Komaragiri of Pittapuram Tana. Much is wet but a part is dry land. All the patta comprises 109 acres. About 13 acres are dry lands. The rest is wet. For all the 109 acres the taxes amount to Rs. 791-0-3 including the cess. On the Pittapur estate the rates are high on the cultivated lands. The rate for the wet in this estate vary between Rs. 47, Rs. 40, Rs. 32, Rs. 29, Rs. 22 and Rs. 20. The wet rate in the sandy waste land is up to Rs. 2. Thus the wet rate is from Rs. 2 to Rs. 47. Ours is only a single patta. The wet cultivation rate is imposed on our land. It is Rs. 7 and odd. The dry rate is Rs. 4. I have lost much of my land. The tax was generally Rs. 22-5-3 per acre. I was not able to pay the tax because the yield was not even sufficient to bear the tax. The estate authorities have auctioned these lands for my not paying the taxes. I don't know if all the land is auctioned. It belongs to the Komaragiri village. It is 76 and odd acres in extent. In 1934 a part of it was sold. Another part was recently sold. The Patta No. 103 is 76 acres and 193 cents. The tax for Patta No. 44 is Rs. 1,704-6-0. Later on Rs. 1,785-5-6 was demanded for fasli 1342. It is in the name of my wife. The estate authorities have auctioned and deprived us of our land. The patta is not transferred to them. Before this land was sold, i.e., when the arrears amounted to Rs. 400 I bought some other land. It is only on that, that a part of my land is sold. I bought in the name of my wife in 1933, 50 acres for Rs. 5,000 and more. The registered document was brought in the name of my wife. Still Rs. 400 remains to be paid. By the time I bought it the arrears amounted to Rs. 400. All the yield will be paid as tax and when that was not found to be sufficient, the land was auctioned. I bought the land in 1932. The auctioning was begun between 1933 and 1934 and it was completed by 1935. It is not in my control now. Patta No. 103 is owned by three people. One owns 3 acres and odd, another owns 5 acres. We own 50 acres. It has become now Patta No. 102 comprising 76 acres and 93 cents. In fasli 1342, the estate authorities collected the harvest, sold the yield for Rs. 1,066 and adjusted that amount towards their dues. This happened an year after I bought the land. The yield was less for the year when I bought it. The demand of the zamindar was Rupees 1,704. The yield was only Rs. 900. The rest remained in arrears. The next year, the income per acre was Rs. 14 when the zamindar himself collected the harvest and sold the produce. The expenses for the Paleru (cultivator), grass and other food and expenditure for the cattle, etc., should be met from that paltry income. The ryot has to bear the expenses out of his pockets. For fasli 1342, the yield was Rs. 8-7-5 per acre. The taxes and the arrears are not paid. I brought this to the notice of the Maharaja in the registered notice sent to him on the 12th October 1933. This is a glaring instance in my experience. Till three years after. I bought the land, the income was decreasing year after year. The practice in all places is that after the harvest is collected the ryot heaps it in those fields, where the rate is lower. Not only that ryot but we also saw the heap. The tanadar also personally inspected it. All the land was auctioned in the year 1935. The estate authorities served a suit notice on the 19th of April 1935. The lands were 3 acres 37 cents, 4 acres 19 cents, wet 50 cents, 10 acres 46 cents and 18 acres 52 cents. The tax was Rs. 20 per acre. The notice was served for Rs. 434-14-2. The land was taken out of our ownership by 1935. On 10th May 1934 their revenue inspector served a notice that after taking away the yield of our lands, only sixteen bundles of hay remaining. He valued them at Re. 1 each. But the actual cost is Rs. 3 per bundle. I was given notice that I should pay Rs. 48 as the cost of the bundles and the charges for the watchman since 30th April 1938 and obtain a receipt of payment. I was asked to receive the notice and obtain a duplicate of it. I received that notice on 16th May 1934. The estate have taken into their control all the land that was in my possession. I requested permission to allow me to pay Rs. 16 for the 16 bundles and stated that in these days when all the people are heartily supporting the ryots to enable them to face the critical economic depression it is not proper on the part of the zamindar to sell the hay at Rs. 3 a bundle to a ryot who had been quite rich and noble since long. Till now hay has not been auctioned in the estate. I requested him either to allow me to take the sixteen bundles for Rs. 16 or put the hay to auction. The ryots get nothing



because the rates are high. Here I beg to state that the ryot is in no way gaining. The tax on Patta No. 28 of Pithapuram for 13 acres and 42 cents is Rs. 290-6-11. The yield of the cultivation or amarakam is Rs. 300. So the income for the ryot is annas 11-4½.

Mallam village, Palla No. 74, wet, extent—1 acre and 42 cents.

The cist is Rs. 45. The surplus per acre Rs. 4. (Files cowle unregistered.)

If you deduct the taxes due this remains. For Patta No. 57 (registered cowle) the surplus out of the amarakam will be Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. I have to pay the tax of Rs. 200 in Kadapa, Samarlakota and Bhimavaram the water-cess for 7 acres 33 cents is Rs. 50. Thus Rs. 250 are over. Rs. 7 remain per acre.

Samarla—Bhimavaram—Patta No. 63—Rate 29 rupees—excluding water-cess. The difference between the estate rates and the Government rates of Mallam taluk.

Gorinta—Government village.

Mallam—Zamindar's.

Adjacent to Kadigattu.

Zamindari village—Mallam 14 acres and 13 cents.

Tax Rs. 266-4-0, Rs. 18 and more per acre. For the same extent, in Gorinta, the Government rate is Rs. 12 for the same sort, Pulimeru is a Government village. Its rate is Rs. 12. The rate in Mallam belonging to the zamindar the rate is Rs. 22. We never paid so much before the enactment of the Act. The kists are increased. Mallam village—Patta—Fasli 57—from Rs. 26 to Rs. 47. In 1888 it is Rs. 110-12-0; in 1932 it is Rs. 237-14-8. This means that that the taxes are doubled. In 1888 it is Rs. 110-12-0; in 1889 it is Rs. 201-6-0; in 1890 it rose to Rs. 205-14-0; in 1902 it rose to Rs. 206-4-0. From 1932 to this date it rose to Rs. 237-14-8. The total increase in Mallam in 1853 was Rs. 8,317-9-0, in 1937 the increase was Rs. 20,127-4-0. Kanchi Ramanna Pantulu Garu was the amin for the Pithapuram estate. He was maintaining a diary. We have taken a court copy. He had all the authority to do anything on behalf of the estate. Diary of 1853.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—According to that diary can you know the date from which rates increased? A.—He wrote in 1853. The prevailing rates at that time can be known. We can now see for ourselves the present rates.

For Thondangi in 1861 and 1862, the jirayati tax for the whole village rose to Rs. 16,700 from Rs. 7,884. Thus there is an increase of Rs. 8,616.

Land taxes—Samarlakota—Bhimavaram No. 134, Patta—Chundru Sattiraju—fasli 1345—3 acres 40 cents, tax Rs. 136-1-0 rate per acre Rs. 40. (The certified copy of the diary of Kanchi Ramanna Pantulu Garu was filed by the Mallam village ryot, Erbagadda Thathabbayi.) Petitions were sent to the enquiry committee stating that the water-sources of Eleru, Vakutippa, Kondivaram, Nagulapalli, Kuthukudumilli, and Endapalli tanks are in need of repair. The repairs are never conducted.

*Irrigation.*—The villages of Koppavaram and Atchampeta gave a notice, on 18th September 1936, that the irrigation sources are never repaired. No reply was given. They wrote to the Collector, and to the Pithapuram Maharaja also. Till now, Petitions are being sent. When silt was placed by the tank thus hindering cultivation, the zamindar levelled the ground and gave pattas. In Koppavaram the irrigation tank deposited silt. The tank-bunds of that land have been cultivated and pattas were issued. The tank needs repair. They have to take water from the Government delta paying high water-cess, as there is no reservoir to store the water got from the Eleru.

*Panasapadu.*—Sivaru Atchampeta irrigation tank needs repairs and so water has to be taken from the Government water-sources. In 1323 fasli, Bandi Appalaswamy Vasantharoyudu, Kondayya brought in auction the Kapavaram tank of the Pithapuram Estate for Rs. 85 amarakam. Order was issued on 29th September 1934. In fasli 1343 Sagi Satyanarayanaraju brought in auction the tanks in Nagulapalli and Isukapalli for Rs. 75. The ryots of Panasapadu and Koppavaram of the Pithapuram Estate complained that a bad smell was coming out of the tanks and that the zamindar did not repair it. (Two petitions were filed.) The tank feeder channel of Rajula cheruvu (which is 95 acres in extent) is in the river. The river is in a higher level than the feeder channel. We sent a petition to the estate authorities stating that fact. When



the canal was constructed it was not in such a high level. It was low except pattas were issued for the land of the tank except 2 acres only. The tank of our village is in amidst fields. I asked them about it. At that time there were some men who took the pattas. We are not having water at all. People of other villages also have taken pattas. They constructed banks or bunds and paddy was cultivated. They don't allow the tank to get water. To facilitate their own transplantation they take water out of this tank. Four hundred acres are as ayacut to the tank. This sort of business is being done since 18 or 20 years. I am 42 years old.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he stated: I petitioned to the Collector but no reply was given. I showed it to the Estate officers. I spent Rs. 70 for laying pipes. I wanted the estate officers to come and see in person. When I informed the Diwan, he said that it will be repaired every year. They are repairing only on repeated requests. But to no gain. I sent a registered notice and petition to the Maharaja, but no reply was sent. I sent that petition in 1933. Again on 23rd September 1933 I sent another petition. The accident was that when water came into the Rajucheruvu (tank) it became almost a big lake. He who obtained a patta out of it first would create breach to the tank and cultivate the land. The crops of the land that stands in the name of my wife are spoiled by the stagnant water. I stated that I may not get water in future. Ryots who are cultivating in that have cut a breach. There is no possibility of getting good water of the river. The bunds of the tanks also fell down. That is why I wanted the diwan to come and see in person.

*Communal lands.*—"Gorasa"—Patta No. 30.—

Survey No. 13, extent—1 acre and 47 cents.

The tank was levelled and the land was given for amarakam at Rs. 3-10-5. I have already hold you about the Komaragiri Raju tank.

*Kondevaram.*—Bogandanicheruvu—Four acres 48 cents—under the patta survey No. 230. There is a punta of 22 cents. The tank was given on amarakam for Rupees 22-6-0.

The fishing of Jellamma cheruvu of Yendapilli was auctioned and sold. The same is being done with regard to the Peddintamma cheruvu of Yendapilli. Trees on the cremation ground and on the banks of the village lake were sold in auction.

*The Vakattippa* tank was auctioned for fishing. When Patta No. 28 was filed, a stay order was issued on 17th July 1938. When Bodichetti Padmaraju stopped that filed a criminal case, it was decided that the estate authorities only instigated. Some other people filed another case. That also was dismissed. On 4th April 1929 the tanadar had the trees of the burial-ground cut and removed them. The communal lands of the Yandapalli village have been given away. The patta lands are not separated. For the arrears due from one person, the lands of another would be auctioned. The joint pattas cause some difficulty. In Mallam and other villages there are mango trees in cultivated lands. They are a hidrance to cultivation. The ryots are incurring some loss due to it. I beg to state that all rights on trees should be vested with the ryots. The pattas I mentioned should be separated. Divide it at 50 acres each and issue pattas. It is difficult to pay the taxes. I subdivided it myself and sent it but it was not noticed. I also sent to the Piddapur Deputy Collector. I requested the estate authorities by registered post to issue separated pattas, while collecting the taxes the income of the ryots is being attached and the watching charges were also collected. How is it possible to pay the watchmen's charges when there is no sufficient income for subsistence even? Rupees 20 was collected as watching charges. The Estate Land Act came into force in 1908. Saying that the estate will be handed over the tanadar required and forced the ryots of Atchampeta to pay Rs. 5,000 instead of Rs. 2,000.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he stated: Thus Rs. 5,000 were paid. In the case of taxes, the zamindari taxes must be not greater than those of the Government. To facilitate cultivation, to prevent communal riots and disturbances and to prevent the zamindari ryots and the Government ryots from quarrelling for water at the channel, all control over irrigation should be vested with the Government. Communal lands and porambokes should be under the control of the village panchayats. Those panchayats must be in charge of the collection of taxes. They will collect properly and give receipts for payment. I am a cultivator since 1918. There was famine for seven years. When people were suffering for want of proper javery cultivation in the Pithapuram estate, taxes were imposed in September, October and November. There is



nothing called remission. A complete remission must be granted in the Pithapuram estate when crops fail. There is much trouble about the instalments of payment. Instead of the instalments of September, October and November, they shall be collected in February, March, April and May. The taxes should be collected by the Government. The yield is very little in the zamindari areas. Therefore the taxes must be reasonable. The taxes must be similar in amount to those levied by the Government in the neighbouring lands. The administration of the tanks and other water sources must be under the Government. The communal lands must be controlled by the village panchayats. Disputes among the pattadars must be settled by the village panchayats.

Q.—Did you give the papers? Or did you give in the name of the communal lands?

A.—The tank beds, blind puntas and the bank of the village tank of “gorasa”—are arranged for grazing purposes. I request that all the communal lands must be left to the use of the people.

Q.—How much of the land is under the head of “communal lands” in your village?

A.—For the neighbouring ‘Gorasa’ village, an illustration of the communal lands has been given.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—All the irrigation tanks assigned? A.—Assignment is made for the Komaragiri village.

Q.—Do you say that even the fishing rights in the tanks should be given to the villagers? A.—All the rights pertaining to the tanks must be given to the people, including the rights over the trees on the banks of the tank.

Q.—How can the unassessed waste, communal lands, forests and hills belong to the people? A.—Even though it is formed as waste, forest, or hill or old waste if used by the people it must pertain to the people.

Q.—Is the people are not using it? A.—I cannot say anything about those lands that are under the zamindar and not used by the people, but I do say that all others must be kept for the people.

Q.—Is there a forest in your Pithapuram? A.—There is little of what can be called a forest nearby.

Q.—That means ‘uncultivable waste.’ A.—There is uncultivable land in Durgada. The people are using it. I heard that the zamindar is claiming that to be his. That must be left to the people.

Q.—When is the transplantation made? A.—It takes place between July and September. The crop will be cut in December.

Q.—By February the ryot gets the produce. Will there be no crop on the field afterwards? A.—Yes, there will be nothing.

Q.—Then there is no produce for the zamindar for any destraint? A.—The land is there, he can do so on that.

Q.—You said that the rates must be equal to those prevailing in the Government lands. If so, regarding the forests, the conditions there must also be similar to those in the forest lands. Is it not? A.—It will not be good if the conditions prevailing in the Government reserved waste are adopted.

Then Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar examined the witness in English.

Q.—Do you contend that there is no difference between the Government ryot and the zamindari ryot? And do you contend that all the conditions existing there should prevail here also? A.—Yes, Sir.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Where revenue auction is done, the payment will be made subsequently. Do you know anything about the cases where people required their lands to be given back to them? Did they give back? A.—No. They did not give back.

Then Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar examined the witness in English.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Is it because that the ryots do not know that they should appeal to the Government? A.—Yes, Sir.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Any sort of security won’t do. Do you contend that the irrigation works should be conducted by the Government? A.—Yes, Sir. That is it.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you wish that the rates should be equal to those prevailing in the Government lands? Do you wish the same thing to prevail even in the case of those parts of your estate where the rates are lower than the Government rates? A.—Our contention is that even the Government rates should be reduced.



Q.—Should the estate rates be equal to the Government rates? Or should they be lesser still? A.—We shall agree as there is no other go.

Q.—Should the rates be reduced even when they are lesser than the Government rates? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—Did you conduct the repair of any tank being a contractor? A.—Yes. As a contractor, I did. They paid Rs. 118. But I spent more.

Witness No. 108.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Makireddi Venkanna, son of Venkatareddi, aged 36 years, Chadipudi, Chadipudi estate, Kovvur taluk, West Godavari district.

Kamma Ranga Rao Garu is the zamindar for us. It is nine years since this estate came to his control. Before that, it belonged to the Nuzvid zamindar. I own 50 acres of land—about 10 acres are wet. The taxes for my lands range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12. These rates are prevailing since 1908. Before the enactment of the Estates Land Act, they were lesser. Formerly the rate for wet was Rs. 4 and Rs. 5. The witness filed an old record. I don't know the previous rate for my land. They formed some self-cultivation lands. They filed suits. Though decision was made about the rates, the old rates were continued to be collected. Suits were filed on 70 or 80 men. Decisions were given four years back. It is in the sub-court. (Filed copy of decree and promised to send copy of the judgment afterwards.) They told that own cultivation is false. They claimed heritage. They bought in auction. When minority was over, it went to Changanthi Kailasa Rao. It was sold to Mullipudi Rayudu. There are Government lands nearby. The tax for wet ranges from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 and for wet it ranged from 5 annas to Rs. 2. (Filed registers and registered patta for his lands.) The Errakalva (red canal) rose in floods, and ruined some fields. This takes place often. No action was taken in spite of our sending many petitions. The tanks are not repaired. (Filed receipts.) They are collecting 3 pies as printing charges. Our petitions were of no use. In patta No. 1934, paragraph 13, there is a provision for remission. But it exists only in name. When asked for remission, they replied that it is not necessary. (Filed reply of the zamindar.) When we built sheds for calves and houses to live, we were served with a notice that we should remove them. The same thing happens even in the case of the poor people who having no money to buy lands, construct their abodes in the village common. The village common and porambokes should be given free to the poor for their use. For our wet land we get water from the tank and the tank gets in its turn from the river. Under the tank there are 200 acres. The ryots themselves are having it repaired for Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. If the bank falls down, they are having it constructed with their own money. Thus there is no hindrance for the water-supply. There is cultivation in the tank lest those fields may be spoiled, they are letting the water go out. There are some 100 acres in the tank. They cultivate paddy in it. It was leased out for half the yield. We only asked but did not give any notice. We did not file a suit. They said, that there is no loss by that.

The pattas must be separated. It must be surveyed. The banks marks are the boundaries.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said : There are no fields for the cows, nor any forest. The ryot feeds his cattle in the ( పీడల ) waste lands.

Witness No. 109.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Vamaraju Venkatratnam, son of Lakshmayya, aged 48 years, Koyyuru, Gollapalle estate, Nuzvid taluk.

I am a ryot. I have got 40 or 50 acres of land. Thirty acres are wet. There are seri villages also in our estate. There are mokhasas also in Narasannapalem and Digavalli and in some other places. These are under their own cultivation. I am representing all the ryots. Nanduri Rama Rao, and the Narasannapalem varu, each prepared a memoranda. The rate for dry is Rs. 1-4-0, for jareeb Rs. 8-4-0 and for wet, it is, Rs. 7. These are high rates. Vatluru is a Government village. We want the same rates. The rate for dry is 10 annas and Rs. 3 for wet. It is under the upland canal. It gets the water of Thamileru. The Government lands get the black water. We get from Ramuleru, but the water is insufficient. Vatluru is four miles off. It is in the



district boundary. The yield will be great. The water is favourable. All my lands are in one village only. The rate for dry in Gollapalli is between 8 annas and 10 annas; for wet it is between Rs. 5-10-2 to Rs. 36-9-11. The jareeb rates are classified and graded. The rates must be paid even if they were cultivated or not. There is no remission. The rate for wet varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 12 :—

ACS.										RS. A. P.
2.57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 0 0
0.69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 8 0
1.21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 9 0
8.99	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 0 0
116.06	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 0 0
58.34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0
1.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 4 0
1.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 0 0

These are high rates for low yield. These are not rates levied according to the soil. They are levied according to the time and the nature of the ryot.

										RS. A. P.
For dry—										
11.74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 0
5.03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 0
5.42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 14 0
5.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
0.45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 2 0
14.96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 5 9
0.68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 7 6
189.84	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 8 0
5.90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 9 0
29.94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 0 0
2.37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 8 0
0.26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 12 0
1.06	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 0 0
1.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 0 0
0.15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0

This is old cowle for Koyyuru village. I am karnam even now. This is my office copy.

Fasli.										RS. A. P.
1291	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,634 10 8
1304 in the time of the present raja	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,448 8 4
1342	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,537 8 9

Rates for dry land—

For fasli 1306, for one acre, 48, Rs. 2-4-0.

The witness was asked to file the list and he did it instead of quoting the rates.

Cowle in 1306—2,729-7-9. Land cultivated 836 acres, 99 cents.

Cowle in 1342—5,537-8-9. Land cultivated 861 acres, 35 cents.

It is three times more. Some grazing fields were cultivated to get enhanced taxes. Then arose a dispute. Police interference was needed. An agreement was made on 26th June 1928. The rates were settled then. They increased the tax by one rupee per acre. They fixed rates for dry and wet but it was not cultivated. (The witness read the agreement and filed it.) It was increased twice, once when the father came and once again now.

I don't know what happened before the time.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram :

Miscellaneous item—

										RS.
Fasli 1306	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	390
Fasli 1342	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	469

I have not brought particulars about the income derived from each land at different times. There was no water-cess in 1306. At that time these lands were not cultivated—

										RS. A. P.
On 1306	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	246 1 7
Now	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	817 2 9

I shall file all papers later on.

Answering the Chairman, he said again: In the same manner it was increased for all villages. I have seen the accounts, during the jamabandi time. I inspected. Then I was having the general power of attorney. It was registered.

Village commons.—(Common lands) These don't exist now. Surrounding them are flocking fields (పండ్లబయ్యళ్లు) That is to say—they were used for answering the calls of nature. They were used for storing dung. Being pressed by the ryots they



were subsequently cultivated. There is no sufficient space for every village. All the vacant land round the Kalyanamantapam in Gollapalle, is now used for tobacco cultivation. One acre and twenty cents. It does not belong to the estate. It is in the village register "A"—

	ACS.
Merasapudi	6.46
Koyyuru	11.86

As those were not sufficient they added the jarib lands Nos. 84, 85 and 86. A tax of Rs. 11-4-0 is being paid.

Pallennamudi is also conjested. They are paying taxes though they constructed houses. There is not flock field for Narasannapalem.

*Common lands.*—Pattas were issued for the old flock fields. In olden days, there were also porambokes. Some of the land in Merasapudi was given to the ryots. The extent of the forest is 1,000 acres. Since ten years there are some difficulties about it. All the villagers go there for wood, fuel and fence. They are collecting 4 annas and 6 annas. There were 2,000 acres in Digavalli. Forest patta was issued for that. Patta was given for a thoroughfare in Pallalamudi. They were trying to cultivate in the flock field of Koyyuru. Now they gave up that idea and a patta was given for a part of it.

*Tanks.*—The Eedula cheruvu of Gollapalle 43 acres 85 cents extent was 10 feet deep. Now it is 4 feet deep. It is stated in the plan which I don't have with me. It will be in the Taluk office. The cultivated extent hitherto was 118 acres; now it is 178 acres.

The Vaddi cheruvu 37 acres 61 cents. The old cultivated extent was 88 acres. Now it is 115 acres. It was 5 feet deep hitherto. Now it is 2 feet only. The canal is commonly for this estate and Mirzapur. It lost its bunds. The water flow is little.

The Merasapudi tank was 7 feet deep hitherto. But now it is only 3 feet. The cultivated extent was 70 acres. Now it is 137 acres. The extent of the Pallalamudi cultivation (Kamatam) tank ayacut is 65 acres. Thirty acres of the tank-bed was given on patta. They will not give remission. There are two tanks in our village. The ayacut is 200 acres. I cannot tell its limit. The rates are Rs. 9-8-0 under the new tank and Rs. 8 under the old. The Koyyuru one is 81 acres 94 cents. The depth was 12 feet; but now it is 4 feet only. The cultivated extent previously was 125 acres; but now it is 210 acres. Bandivanikunta is 25 acres and 30 cents. The depth was 5 feet. But now it is 3 feet. The cultivated extent was 80 acres hitherto; but now it is 157 acres. The Ramaletu canal irrigates black water for 125 acres. Repairs are not conducted. Levelling is not allowed. On 18th June 1912 a fine of Rs. 5 was levied for removing earth and levelling. Three tanks were fixed. There are no cement pipes to facilitate water passage. My brother's land is near the pipe-water passage. When it deposited sand on his land, we had it removed on our own expense. There is the agreement of 1928, but it served no purpose. There are suits filed about it. It was proved that the tax must be removed. As the grazing fields of the tanks are sold, there is a dearth of grass for the cattle.

For Gollapalle and Pallalamudi, it is Rs. 8. For Koyyuru Rs. 3, Rs. 6 and Rs. 5. Now the kist is Rs. 9-8-0. The water-cess is Rs. 15. Remission was sanctioned for Digavalli, but practically nothing was given. They surveyed it in 1890. There is block system. The Government surveyed it. Now again it should be surveyed and taxes should be levied. Water must be first allowed to the (self) own-cultivated (swantha kamatham) lands of the estate. (The witness read out an order regarding the distribution of water giving preference to kamatham lands.)

Kisties are only from October. It used to be 1 anna, 2 annas and 3 annas; we wish that it should be fixed from January. If the zamindar gets angry, he will not give remission. The witness read out and filed an order regarding the supply of cocks (కోడిపుంజలు). (About 13 documents were filed.) Taxes were collected for lands that are cultivated earlier. This is not just.

There must be jamabandi as in the case of Government lands.

An order was issued that it should be included in the tank-bed. I gave receipts correctly when I collected.

The Digavalli forest has been given for contract (ijara). There are two devasthanams. Trials were made to bring endorsements on me. Since the time of my forefathers, those devasthanams belong to us. Decision was given in my favour. On that day they called for me and wanted that I should write them in their favour. They created a social boycott on me. They did not allow my servants to work. The washerman was



not allowed to come to me. But they could get nothing out of all that. Nobody paid heed to them. The Deputy Collector enquired on my request and levied a fine of Rs. 30. It was published in the *Indian Express*. (Filed the paper.)

Dharmajigudem is a Government village. There is wet and dry but no jarib. I paid Rs. 100 per acre. No crop grows. But they have given it for cowle (amarakam). Pests are frequent. Even though there is no rain the taxes must be paid.

- (1) Patta transfers must be given immediately after sale.
- (2) Conditions of (executing) pattas and muchilikas.
- (3) All details must be furnished along with the receipts.
- (4) Copies of survey, settlement and record of rights should be furnished.
- (5) The rates must be fixed similar of the upland tanks. Water-cess must be fixed.
- (6) Flock fields must be established.
- (7) We are paying land nazarana. We should not forget about the nazarana when acquisition is made.
- (8) Forest rights such as taking wood, fence and fuel must be given to us.
- (9) We must be given the right of taking stone.
- (10) Jamabandi accounts should be prepared every year by the village accountants.
- (11) The common lands must be separated.
- (12) The old tree rights and the present right over trees must be clearly distinguished.

This witness, that I deposed is for six villages combined. Pakirlamudi people have come. They have some points to be expressed. As they are not able to express, I have come on their behalf also.

At this stage, the Chairman remarked: Will they tell anything? If they are here, you need not speak on their behalf.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said: Since about 1930, I have not written the accounts of the Koyyur village. For that they appointed their own man (servant). On receipt of the application for any transfer of a patta, the zamindar must have it done immediately. The karnams must be asked for. From the zamindar, it must pass on to the karnam. If the zamindar likes it, the karnam can keep it with him. The power of attorney given to me was cancelled. I am a Government karnam even now.

Q.—Did you apply to the Collector regarding the heavy taxation? A.—We informed when we fixed the suit. I don't know anything about the other villages. It was decreed that the agreement and the rates are of no avail. We did not petition about the repairs of the tanks. There is something about the repairs in the judgment. There is no possibility of the cultivation of jarib lands in our village. The rate is Rs. 11-4-0. We did not send any petition about it, not knowing the rules. I don't know that the price of jarib in other villages is Rs. 4,000. I cannot tell anything. It must be Rs. 100 to Rs. 700 or Rs. 800.

I don't know since when the system of reliance (asara paddhathi) is existing. I don't know anything about Ramakrishna Rao Garu's consent. The flock fields are included in the porambokes. They are mixed with our village. Those accounts will be in the estate. It is written in the cowle. I don't know that a forest was prescribed for our village. The 'A' register mentions of the village commons. It is along with the 'A' register. I have not brought it here. It will be written as "porambokes for the construction of temples."

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: There are flock fields in our village. The cists are not decreased. Flock fields must be given to us even by acquisition. The ryots must retain them. All of us, the ryots cannot pay. The difference in cultivated extent since 1306 to 1342 is 25 acres.

Replying Mr. M. Pallam Raju: There is a forest for Digavalli. It has been given for lease. It is still being given. Lands were also given.

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: I don't know whether they have eliminated the forest in the new list. I can submit the account of the amount of wet land under cultivation in fasli 1306 and at present.

Answering Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar: The cocks were sent to the palace, but I don't know whether they are for the servants or for the own use of the palace. For those people who go during the dasara, food and batta will be provided. The ryots are not welcomed. They were not taken forcibly. It is stated that if sheep are not supplied, severe action will be taken against. I don't know what they are sending now.



Replying to a question by the Chairman: It is a custom that whenever we go to the zamindar, we take cocks to be presented to him.

Replying Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: A cess called meral is collected from the ryots and that collection will be distributed among the village servants.

Accounts are not maintained for some of the villages. Carpenters must serve both the ryots and the zamindar.

In reply to Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar: What can I say about "severe action?" I told all about me. Severe action was not taken for not sending cocks. They were generally sent every year.

Witness No. 110.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dasari Veera Raghavayya, son of Narasayya, aged 33 years, Digavalli, Gollapalli estate, Nuzvid taluk.

The previous mokhasa of our village was sold to the zamindar thirteen years back. The rates have been increased after the sale. The rate was Rs. 4,000, but now it is Rs. 6,000 for dry land, and for wet it is about Rs. 1,500, making a total of Rs. 8,000. While enhancing the revenue, 50 acres under Gajuvanikunta got Rs. 3,000. On the pretext that they have repaired the increased rate of Rs. 5 to Rs. 7-8-0. Saying that dams will be constructed they issued pattas. They did not incur even Rs. 300 for the work. For a land yielding 10 measures under the Ellagadda tank, Rs. 10 were collected. Thirty years back there was jarib. Now there is nothing of that sort except the land under the Chandrasagaram and Chakalikunta. The rate ranges from Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 for the jarib under wells. Not even horsegram are grown there.

It may be good to levy Rs. 7 or Rs. 7-8-0. Kamatam (cultivation) was made in the village and sold to the ryots. There is much loss to the yield. They also wrote that debts were given. (Perhaps he wanted to say that lands were sold on credit.) Sheep were never prevented to enter the forest, hitherto. But now they are prevented. They are collecting wet rates even for some of the lands that are not irrigated by the tanks. There the jarib rate was Rs. 2. It is too heavy. I have 60 or 70 acres in Digavalli. Of that 15 acres are wet.

Witness No. 111.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. A. V. S. Rama Rao, son of Hanumantha Rao, aged 35 years, Koduru, North Mylavaram estate, Bezwada taluk.

I am ryot having 4 acres wet and 18 acres of dry land. The rates are Rs. 12 for wet and Re. 1-4-0 is the maximum for the dry land. It is also Re. 1 in some places. The neighbouring Ganapavaram village belongs to the Government. Then the yield is twenty bags per acre. The cist is Rs. 6. Our lands don't yield more than twelve or thirteen bags. The dry rates are almost equal. There used to be lower rates in Vatluru village. They are increased in 1917 and now and so heavy. There are jaribs. For them Rs. 14 are collected. The same for wet. They are collecting the cess at the rate of As. 1-9 per rupee. They had it written and in 1913 that the trees can be used. Filed registered documents. The cist increased threefolds. We were using the forest of Koduru. They are creating disputes about the repairs of the tanks. With much difficulty, in 1912, the Government sanctioned Rs. 3,700. Parties were created and deeds were written. We sent a mahazar petition to the Kistna Collector on the 20th June 1936. Private survey is practised. Not even the rough pattas are given; also in the Chimalapadu village. When we asked for it, they reply that it is not possible. Filed petitions. The jarib wells of Putluru village are constructed by the ryots but as they are not in good order, there is not much yield. (Field photo.)

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: We were never in the habit of sending petitions to the Collector. And so we did not send any. We continued to pay the same rate of tax. I don't have any land therein. We sent petitions in 1936. These were of no avail. We told that the tank can no more be used. He refused the promised visit. We did not get proper reply till now. We kept quiet, being afraid of him. They are frightening us saying that we collected these papers and brought them here. Our village came to the possession of the Raja in March 1924. On filing a criminal case for the palmyra



trees on 1st April, the Magistrate cancelled it off on the 7th. Since then we are troubled by the police. Filed copy of criminal petition. The estate used to pay jodi for five villages. It was previously Rs. 500 plus a quit-rent of Rs. 200. Total Rs. 757. It is increased fourfolds and the income is Rs. 2,248. We have got the receipts of payment given before the enactment of the Act and also the water-cess receipts. They increased for every two years. They increased the self cultivated extent (swanta kametham) of the common lands of Chimalapadu. The cultivated lands are increased. There are no remissions. Their lands should be tilled first. The taxes should be paid. From the beginning we never knew any remission. Free service is in existence since twenty years. We have to take the cart for them even at the time of sowing the seeds. We used to take anything from the forest free of cost. Troubles began since the institution of this committee. I don't know what else they will do. The Post office is at a distance. There is no possibility of getting the use of the postal service. Who will bring?

There is a judgment regarding a forest of an estate in Thiruvur taluk forest that it can be used for our purposes. The Pullari system was first begun in Potluru. The axe user must be paid Re. 1-0-6. For others As. 8-6 must be paid. A well-to-do ryot must pay As. 4-6. The 6 pies goes to the clerk (gumastha). I don't know what for they pay. There are not receipts for them. If I don't pay the 6 pies it will be put on my account. The Reddigudem village belongs to Adurumilli Gopalakrishnayya Garu. The rate for jarib in the Rangapuram estate is Rs. 24. The land was 74 acres. After the zamindar came 70 acres more are added. Now they don't get water. All the gardens are completely dried. (The trees died.)

Questioned by the Raja of Mirzapuram: In our village, there is no practice of giving the lands on lease (ijara). They were not given for cowle. I told about the new lands and the gardens.

The price of the lands—

The maximum rate for dry lands, Rs. 50.

The maximum rate for wet lands, Rs. 200 and Rs. 300.

I don't know anything about the Santalagudem village. I don't go if I am not concerned. Pullur is under Aswarao Garu. They did not increase. I don't know if the new tanks are irrigating part of the forest. It is a hear-say. There is no unreserve for the forest. They do everything as they like. Hitherto there were no permits. They are pressing since three years. They never gave receipts even for cists. There is no demarcation of the patta numbers. The Government survey is not made. The ryot has no way of providing grass for his cattle. From those who have taken for cowle, Re. 1-6-0, As. 8-6 and As. 4-6, are collected. The villages pay As. 4-6. There is jarib in our village. I cannot tell the amount of the income. The price of a tobacco field will be between Rs. 100 to Rs. 150. I don't know whether there are lands sold for Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000.

Witness No. 112.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Nekkilapu Veerayya, son of Seshayya, President of the Zamin Ryots' Association, Dharmajigudem, Chintalapudi taluk, West Godavari district.

President of the Zamindari Ryots' Association of West Godavari district: I am in Dharmajigudem village. It is a Government village. There is a mokhasa village in the neighbourhood. I toured in all the villages of the West Godavari district, as I am the President of the Zamin Ryots' Association. Petitions were sent to me regarding the difficulties of the ryots. I have got lands in Kuluvayalagudem and Nadupalli—two mokhasa villages.

Pattas were not issued for our lands. They were never issued for the whole village. There are no papers pertaining it.

When we pay taxes, sometimes receipts were given; sometimes not given. It is told that Indukanti Venkayya was not given any receipt. This happens because he trusted the tax-collector. Even the mokhasadar is not asking for payment again when we say that payment is made but no receipt was given. Thus everything is going on trust and belief. There are Kamma, Velama and Brahman mokhasas.

Pattas are not issued. That is our first complaint. The second complaint is that heavy taxes are being collected. Remission is never given. Auction takes place. I have got 30 acres of dry land. All wet used to be under division and ambadi systems. The Revenue Board also was approached for cancelling the cists. The High Court fixed a



rate, Rs. 10, Rs. 11 including the cess. Six acres of my land is auctioned seven years back. Even after the High Court decree, they are collecting Rs. 2 more calling it a payment for expenses. This is illegal. The tax for the dry land is Re. 1 and Rs. 2. They don't allow the cattle to go into the forest to graze. This is unjust. This objection must be removed. They must not collect more than Rs. 10 as the High Court decreed. Under the head of "court expenses" they are collecting Rs. 2 more. Personally I am not aware of all this. But this is what the ryots informed me. I am telling you what all I came to know to be true after enquiry. I have come to file records.

Yedavalli is an aghaharam village. Receipts of payment are written on white paper, containing no particulars. There is no patta number, the name of the land, fasli, etc.

There are two tanks for our village. One irrigates the mokhasa lands. Another supplies water to the lands. The mokhasadar spent Rs. 2,000 to repair his tank. Even an elephant gets drowned in that tank. (It is so deep). The ryots' tank gets dry soon. Both are filled by rain water. Rivulets are formed by rain water and they fill the tanks. It is the duty of the mokhasadar to repair the tank of the ryots. He has not done so. The mokhasadar has self-cultivated lands (swanta kamatam) under his tank.

I have got about 50 or 60 acres of land. About 40 acres of it are under the control of the ryots. The mokhasadar has under his tank 60 acres of land. The mokhasadar is not taking any step to see that the ryots' tank is filled. On the other hand, he constructed a canal to facilitate the flow of water into his tank. That cannot bring water from a stream. The canal is constructed in such a manner that the ryots' tank cannot get water from the stream. The same stream must supply water for both the tanks. The canal is constructed five or six years back. The streams get pure water from the forests. Even rain water is prevented from flowing into the ryots' tank. We sent petitions to the Collector and to the mokhasadar, in vain.

There were trees existing before the enactment of the Estates Land Act. They were under the control of the ryots. I hope the Act also states that they should be under the control of the ryots. I don't know whether it is really so. But now the mokhasadar is asserting his right over the trees. He is felling the trees to be sold. But actually the right over trees belong to the ryots.

Free service must be rendered to the mokhasadar. He is extracting this free service by force. On refusal to work, he threatens that the cattle will be impounded. He frightens with several threats, and thus has the work rendered by force. It is desirable and possible that the mokhasadar and the ryots can render to each other reciprocal help. But it is quite sure and certain that the mokhasadar will never help the ryot. If the ryot refuses to serve, the mokhasadar will not give water. Even though it was a time when the ryot would be tilling his own land, he should work with the plough in the mokhasadar's land, if and when required. Irrespective of the necessity of the ryot to look after his own land (as it gets dry) he must work in the mokhasadar's fields.

Cattle are not allowed to enter the common lands. If at all they get in, soon will they find themselves secure in the four walls of the cattle pound. It is not the case with the Government lands. I beg to state that it is necessary to deprive the estate authorities of any power over the village common lands.

He filed the records that are in his possession.

1. The cattle were auctioned, at Rs. 20 (each). They adjusted the accounts by deducting the arrears and they deducted also what has to be paid for the running term. Receipts were given by the clerk, Polur Lakshmikantha Rao Garu. The ryot who received is Thammisetti Ramadu. He is not here. But I know the fact, as he expressed everything to me. The servants were asked to take away the cattle by force and they were auctioned to somebody at Rs. 20, Rs. 3 were kept in reserve as fees. A receipt was given for the whole. This happened in the Brahman mokhasa. Receipts are given after payment but the particulars as to the number of the fasli are not written. That ryot is not here now.

The Committee did not allow this witness to give his hear-say evidence as the original parties were not present. He said he had come there to file some records and he filed the following:—

For patta No. 161, tax for fasli 1340 is Rs. 70-6-11.

The tax for the same patta in fasli 1346 is Rs. 98-12-8.

Q.—The Zamindar of Mirzapuram asked the extent of the land? A.—I don't know the details.

Then he referred to the patta and said:—

19 acres and 67 cents in fasli 1346.

13 acres and 77 cents in fasli 1340.



The extent increased.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—It increased by 6 acres. Is it surveyed? A.—It has been surveyed by the karnam and some other Government officer. The Government surveyor also came. It has been surveyed though the ryots did not agree.

A receipt was given for Rs. 140-7-1 as payment of tax for fasli 1341. They took an enhanced rate, i.e., Rs. 70-0-2 more.

Tax for patta No. 129 for fasli 1340 is Rs. 176-1-4. I don't have the papers with me.

Q.—Can you tell the arrear for the previous fasli? They might have adjusted it towards the previous fasli dues. A.—I cannot tell.

Q.—Did they add any wet land? A.—We pay in kind, i.e., grain. The wet rates are not added. The grain is valued on the thrashing fields (kallams) and taken.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—You don't know personally. It will be good if you will give us a statement of all the particulars contained in the papers. What can you tell without knowing anything? A.—I shall file the papers only. For patta No. 129 of Mokkapati Venkayya the tax for fasli 1345 is Rs. 176-1-4, and for fasli 1340 it is Rs. 143-2-2. The kists are taken at the time of the harvest. This should not be allowed to continue.

Raju Nagulapalle.—The value of the land of Gantipalli mittadar in a place is Rs. 40 and tax, Rs. 9-9-11. Value of the land in another place is Rs. 50 whereas the tax is Rs. 17-8-10. Filed receipts.

Raju Pothepalli.—For No. 104, land for fasli 1304 the payment to the

								RS.	A.	P.
Karnam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Local cess	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Nigaman	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Sepoy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	0
Village expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	0

All these are collected along with the taxes.

They levied Rs. 6 as collection charges per patta.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is the date written in the receipts? A.—No. Q.—What is the tax? A.—Rs. 48 and more. Q.—What is meant by 'nigaman'? A.—Sum of Rs. 66 is taken for paying the supervisor of the servants—Nigaman. Q.—Did they increase the tax between faslis 1304 and 1340 after the enactment of the Estates Land Act? A.—No, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Somebody would have told. You don't know anything and you have believed what you were told. How can trust that. File proof. (It was filed.) Do you say that these (customs) practices are not good? We have to infer from this that all this is unjust. All right? A.—The ryots also say the same thing. The rate for wet is between Rs. 11 and Rs. 12 and for jarib, Rs. 1-12-0, I will file papers. He filed some other pattas of the same village.

The tax for patta No. 40 of (Gontipalle) Kolli Venkayya is Rs. 18-5-0 per acre. jarib.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the extent? A.—One acre and 24 cents. The total tax is Rs. 22-11-3. The rate per 1 acre of dry land, Rs. 3-8-0.

The tax for patta No. 82 in fasli 1340 is Rs. 134-7-6, and for fasli 1341, it is Rs. 209-7-2.

Murachelakarayudupalem.—There is no patta number in the receipt. The rate for wet is between Rs. 10 to Rs. 12.

Kothapalli village—Local cess, 9 pies.

Mamool for the clerk, 9 pies.

For fasli 1337, the fees for the clerk or gumastha is 9 pies per rupee.

The local cess for fasli 1337 is As. 12-3 and the clerk's mamul amounted to As. 12-3. Even in this 9 pies per rupee must be paid. I am filing the two pattas.

Kothapalli and Talarlapalli.—The mokhasadar bought a land in auction for Rs. 500. It is written in the document that the land is wet. They collected nazarana also. Filing record. For fear that the Debt Relief Bill will be enacted they adjusted the amount towards the dues and arrears receipt, dated 11th January 1937 and 1st January



1938. They collected for the period from 1344 to 1347. They are levying a tax of Rs. 24 for jarib lands, and Rs. 12 for the lands under the wells. Though we are not using the water of the tank, they are levying Rs. 24. Tobacco cultivation. Bhogh villages.

*Bapirajugudem.*—In the pattas it is stated that the cattle must be permitted to get into the forests. In spite of that provision they are collecting fees for the grazing of the cattle, collection of wood and fuel in the forests. The patta prohibited such collection.

Q.—Is it for the cattle of that village or any another? A.—The receipts are given for the grazing of the cattle in the forest of that village only. The receipt contains the patta number and the name of the village.

For the use of the members of the Committee, the conditions in the last paragraph of the patta were read out.

The rate for the jarib is Rs. 9. Other fees are collected in addition to this such as Pullari.

Q.—In these papers the patta is in the name of one person and the receipt is in the name of another. What do you say for this? A.—I have not seen that. The villagers gave me and I am submitting.

*Gudiguntla village.*—The taxes are increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 7.

The CHAIRMAN: You prepare a statement, write a list of all the papers and submit them to us, we will receive them. You don't know anything personally. The ryots are not here. Much time is wasted on this.

Q.—What else will you tell? A.—In Pangidigudem of the Valleru Estate they are collecting 8 annas per animal as fees. When a woman was plucking mangoes from a tree planted by her husband, a punishment tax was levied on her. There are two shares for the Pangidigudem estate. These receipts are given by me. Both are collecting equal amounts. A fee has to be paid even for taking leaves of the palmyra trees.

Q.—Is the fee (pullari) levied recently or is it existing since long? A.—It is a recent levy. Before the enactment of the Estate Land Act the cattle had free access into the forests. Even the tamarind trees that are in the yards of the ryots are auctioned and given to others. Trees of all people except those of their clerk, Lingam Mallayya, are auctioned. Those houses are the residences of the ryots. They are auctioning the trees that are in the yards of those residences and taking the money for themselves. What I am telling is not regarding the trees that are in the fields but only regarding the trees in the village itself. (Files Pullari receipts.) The Narayanapuram estate belongs to Vullur. Vasantavada is a village in that estate. A fee of 2 annas is being collected for getting sand from the Ramileru. For clay the fee is 6 pies. They are selling porambokes, waste lands and thus the cattle are deprived of fodder.

Witness No. 113.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mokkapati Sri Ramulu, son of Venkiah, Gartipalli.

All the lands in our village are wet lands. There are hillocks. I have got 40 acres. Our mokhasadar is Sree Raja Raghava Rao. Eight acres are wet. The rest is dry waste.

There are no kuntas for the wet. Nor are there rivers or rivulets. The whole source of the water-supply is rain.

The rate ranges from Rs. 11 to Rs. 14. The yield is three or four kattas of gram. The yield is not even sufficient to pay the taxes. We are starving.

In olden days we were having 3 acres and 70 cents. On the regime of Venkatapathi Raju Garu the rates were between Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. There was in existence the asara or support system. Water was supplied free. Subsequent to the demise of Venkatapathi Raju Ranga Rao Garu enhanced the rates in fasli 1340. For wet it is Rs. 12 and Rs. 13. For dry it is Rs. 3-8-0 and Rs. 4 and for jarib tobacco cultivated land the rate is between Rs. 12 and Rs. 14. They are collecting as they please. Some times they are levying Rs. 18 for jarib. Even if we cultivate the land or lay a garden, they levy the same rates. Even if there is any yield it is hardly sufficient to pay the taxes and thus all the yield goes to the palace coffers. Such are the circumstances since ten years. Irrespective of the fact that we may have any other work, we have to take the yield on carts to the palace. We are obeying because of fear. For the patta for which we were paying Rs. 143, we



are now made to pay Rs. 197, we have receipts for fasli 1341. They are collecting in that manner. If we go and inform, they get awfully angry. These collections are forced. We have to keep quiet bearing all this burden. Of the nine candies of the yield three candies go to pay the taxes. The price of one bag full of grain ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40. I own some land in Ankulammappadu. The rate ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. The Mokhasadar is Rama Reddi Garu. The yield for eight acres is nine candies. Of this three candies go to make the tax payment. In addition to this we have to pay something more to the gumasthas and javans, i.e., clerks and servants. Something more is taken under jodi. Deducting all this only three candies remain. We went and reported and also begged. They pounced upon us thrice and drove us away. There is no yield at all in dry lands. Even for that they are collecting Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3-8-0. In addition to the fact that we have to take the grain to their palace in our carts, but we shall also stock it in their stores. Otherwise they will get angry.

We are not allowed to take wood and fuel from the forest. It is our age long privilege to take them from the forest. They are preventing us since ten or fifteen years. We are undergoing several other difficulties.

The late estate holder used to cancel all arrears. At least he was reducing them sufficiently. But now, we have to pay the dues even by mortgaging or selling the properties. Last year, I sold a land for Rs. 400 to pay the taxes. There was the support or Asara system. They said they could not alter it, even our request. Thus we had to return home unredressed. Our village contains 1,000 people. Collies from other places also came. The neighbouring villages are Potepalli, Guddipati, Machavaram, Guravayyagudem and Nagulapalle. People from these places will come to work. The mokhasadar is one mile off in Jilakaragudem. Veerabhadrayya and I went and reported that the taxes are high. They pounced on us and drove us. For fear of blows, we came back. The taxes are un-bearable. We shall not irrigate our lands even though the crops are dying unless and until their lands are irrigated. The mokhasadar has self-cultivated land under the tank. For these kists the mokhasadar exacted (promissory) notes from us. Properties are mortgaged and sold. They are giving them to the ryots for half and half shares. The self cultivated land (Swantakamatam) is 200 acres. I did not give any written undertaking. But Pakalapati Ramayya did so, for 30 acres. He is now cultivating under division system (palu). All the ryots must till the Kamatham land freely. We must spare our ploughs for that purpose. We should not collect our harvest unless and until the estateholders have the harvest of their lands collected. Even if we bring coolies or labourers from other villages, they should be first made to work on the estate-holders lands, whenever required. If the Palerus (Farm servants who receive share of the produce and hence responsible cultivators) marry, their wives also should go to work on the estateholder's lands. The wages are paid by them. One of their servants, Fakir by name, always threatens us to beat. The coolies came from a distance of three miles. A receipt was given for my payment of Rs. 400 and I have it in my house. I sold my piece of land of three acres for Rs. 80 to a Sahukar. I have not brought the document here. It is in my house. I shall send it afterwards.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : I sent Rs. 400 and the receipt is in my house :—

Tax paid for fasli 1340	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Tax paid for fasli 1341	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Tax paid for fasli 1341-42	...	...	...	...	...	...	197

All that land is uncultivated and vacant. I have got some more chelaka (plots of land). The lands were surveyed between 1341 and 1342, much against the will of the ryots. They took thumb-impressions from us, from the ploughman and other ryots.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—We are not so well situated as to find out the extent of land. They mixed all wet and dry. They added all the useless forest and stony land and said that the extent increased. In spite of our protest, they levied a wet rate. We proved that such should not be the case but they did not agree. After the survey, they said that the Gampalagudem land increased by 15½ cents. We showed them that it is in forest, but they told that it is in the land itself. We are paying the tax for that having no other go. We must agree for whatever they say, be it 15½ or 30 cents. In the same manner we are paying the taxes. There is no remission even if the crops fail. They say that the taxes are just. If we ask them as to why they increased the tax from Rs. 143 to Rs. 196, they put forth the reason that the land is surveyed. Did they survey it by the Government Surveyors : No. Some karnam would come and measure as he likes, the forest inclusive and he would say that the dry became wet. Thus the wet rates are levied to all lands.



When a stream washed a field away, it was not looked after: but as a result a forest grew.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: I can sign. I never petitioned that my land was not surveyed.

(This witness was shown a petition and was asked if the signature in was not his. He read it over and over again and admitted that he affixed his signature to it.)

This year they collected from me by force. Sree Ramulu wrote this application and I was forced to sign. (The application was filed.)

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: The field did not increase. The cultivation also did not increase. Fifteen cents of forest was added. But the land remained the same in extent.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: We wrote registered muchilikas, being unable to bear the troubles caused to us. Watchmen are appointed as soon as the javery fructifies. (కంకులు పేసి నప్పుడే). Even at that time we all have to go and work for the estate holders if required.

For bringing the wood for my plough from the forest I was fined Rs. 30. On my not being able to pay the amount they took part of the yield of my lands. We are not perhaps destined to enjoy the fruits of our labour in our lands. There are mango, palmyra and soapnut trees in our lands. All the yield of the soapnut tree must be sent to the palace. This is going on since ten or fifteen years. Before that time our elders were using all that produce. I was very young and I don't know much.

To questions put by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: Being unable to bear all this trouble we said we are prepared to leave the village. The zamindar welcomed the idea. We are living there since many generations and we don't like to leave the place, but the zamindar has no objection to our leaving the village.

Witness No. 114.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sayyid Hussain Sahib, son of Syed Pakeer Sahib, Pamidipadu, Narasaraopet taluk, Guntur district.

The rate of the tax is very heavy. I am put up in an aghaharam. Our aghaharam villages are—Pamidipadu, Dondapadu and Aghaharam. There are shareholders. I bought one share from them. I am also a ryot. I have 30 acres of land. There are three other shareholders. I have one-sixteenth share in the aghaharam (one anna share). For the other share there are three people. In 1907, they levied excess rates on 16 acres. We have dry land only. The kist in 1907 was Rs. 2 only. In 1933, they collected a water-cess of Rs. 3-4-0 and Rs. 4-8-0. They gave us a notice whether we will write or not, and increased the tax. We are now paying Rs. 8 whereas in 1907 we paid only Rs. 2-8-0, in 1912 Rs. 3 and 1922 and 1931, Rs. 4. We suffered a famine for two years. We were in arrears. They collected the dues through the civil courts. Where they could not collect, they had the lands written in their name. Ex parte decrees and arrest warrants were issued. The ryot paid with great difficulty. All this happened in 1936. There is Government land at a distance of four furlongs. I have 2 acres there. It is a better land. All the ryots of that Government land co-operated and constructed a tank. There is a greater part of Government land. There the rate is between Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2-2-0. Even the Government land gets water from the tank. After the Act was changed they lost the trust on the ryots. For fear of the enforcement of the Act, they increased the rates even earlier than 1936. It is said that there is a section 145. I don't know that. According to that, it seems suits cannot be filed. It seems ejection is not possible. I don't know well. The inamdar filed a suit and we contested. The judgment is recently given. They have not improved the tank. They have exacted mutchilakas from us and we were forced to put our thumb-impres-sions. These are too dangerous. They should not collect before the harvest. After the enforcement of the Act, they must collect the tax as a first charge on the crop only after harvest. We have taken on security. The Sahukar gave the security. This year groundnuts are sold between Rs. 8 to Rs. 10.

There are two tanks for our estate, but not repaired. Overflowing streams caused breaches to the tank. It is not repaired. All the 50 acres of wet are yielding somehow by the grace of God. The aghaharam people have power to obtain from court ex parte decrees for the jirayati lands. They don't have the right of selling the land. Durga



Prasada Rao Garu is in Sreeharipadu. We are doing everything according to the practice in existence, as usual. The land will be held in security for payment of taxes according to section 8. The ryots losing hopes apply to the courts for ejection. In our agraaharam there are 3,300 acres. There are 573 acres for Kshatriyas, and 500 acres for Velamas. The total amount is 2,300 acres. Only 1,600 acres are surveyed. We had to bear the dividend. Three hundred and fifty acres are in the shrotriyam poramboke. It is surveyed and levied. It was also added. In this unjust manner they are adding everything. They are not surveying well.

It will be good to arrange that the taxes should be collected by either the Government or any panchayat. In 1936, eight charges were filed against. Javery fields, were removed and converted into lime gardens. They must be deprived of these powers. The panchayats are functioning well in our district and all these powers must be vested with the panchayats.

(The witness filed some documents.)

I am representing the ryots and the people of the agraaharams. As stated in the 1936 Act (without the amendment), the ryot must have the occupancy right. We request you for that.

I bought the mokhasa in 1925. My share is very little. I have a small share in the agraaharam. I am having 15 acres of my land cultivated by a ryot. Since many generations ago, those ryots are working for me. I have got 70 acres in the agraaharam. It is under my own cultivation. Of these 70, 14 acres are under the ryot. I am cultivating the rest myself. My family contains a large number. My brothers and my relatives are remaining with me and assisting me. There are six shares for our agraaharam. One of the shares belongs to three people and another to six people. Nine parts on the whole.

Compensation was increased in 1936. It is under ryotwari since 1922. They are ryots since long. We leased the land to the ryots.

I bought some share in that agraaharam. The rate is Rs. 4-8-0, in that place. I did not increase the tax though the owners of other agraaharams increased. I have got 4 or 5 acres in each of the several small agraaharams. Due to the Estates Land Act, the collection of taxes is difficult. Auctioning is also difficult.

There are no parties in our village. After the agraaharam is bought litigation increased. It is said that there was nothing of that sort in the time of our forefathers. Then everything was going on smoothly.

In 1936, the ryots were asked to quit the village. But the ryots did not obey. The tanks are not at all repaired. No petition was sent to the Collector. As they are cultivating for half the share, they give half of the produce. As both share equal amounts, petition was not sent. If the tanks are repaired a part of the land can become wet. There is no wet land in our village. We are cultivating dry crops.

Witness No. 115.

Rajahmundry.

20th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Athmakuri Subba Rao, son of Seetharamaswami, Mallavaram, Pithapuram estate.

I submitted a memorandum. I am in the Mallavaram village of the Pithapuram Estate. I own about 70 or 80 acres of land, 30 acres dry and 50 acres wet land. I have 20 acres in Navara village, 5 acres dry and about 15 acres wet.

The wet rate in Mallavaram ranges from Rs. 5 and Rs. 20. It is Rs. 8 for my lands. I have also 50 acres of jirayati lands. I have got also 8 acres of inam lands. I am paying quit-rent only for these lands. I am paying a jirayati of about Rs. 160. I have some Government land also. The kathubadi is Rs. 20.

The ryot must be made the proprietor of the land that he himself is tilling and cultivating. It is enough if the zamindars have the melvaram right. A part of the forest must be kept for the use of the ryots, exclusive of the control of anybody else. These are my "practical suggestions." There are no records. The wet are being increased gradually. Till 1908, there existed the vantuary system. Then it was high. Twenty years later, the rate was enhanced by As. 1-6 more. Because of this litigation court decrees increased in number. I am submitting the accounts.



I shall show you the account as to how the rates increased up till 1908 :—

*Mallavaram village.*

								RS.	A.	P.
In 1896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,774	0	0
In 1897	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,179	11	0
							(Account excluding 'Tabatu.')			
In 1901	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,215	8	8
In 1902	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,661	12	1
In 1903	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,054	8	3
In 1937	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,870	4	0

The extent did not increase before the year 1906. Later on there was an increase of 70 acres. Waste land was bought in auction. The number of seris increased.

*Navara village.*

								RS.	A.	P.
In 1899	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,425	2	9
In 1937	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,993	15	1
<i>Safees accounts.</i> (సేవల జాబితా)										

In 1899, permanent increment and Safees account are established and determined.

By this time it has become Rs. 7,993. The kists have been increasing gradually. I request that a universal rate may be levied and settled just like the Government rates. No remission was ever given. Four miles off our village, there is a place called Kathipudi. There the rate is Rs. 4 for wet and As. 11-3 for dry. Kathipudi is very near though it is not adjacent to that of ours. There are Government lands there. All the land is of the same sort. The tank is the common water-source. The rate for wet is Rs. 6 for wet and As. 11-3 for dry land. All round our village are estates for example Sendurti and Kolanka estates. I don't know about the rates there.

There is no remission at all. Taxes have to be paid irrespective of the yield (even though there is no yield). Watchmen are appointed even when the heaps are made, i.e., even before the reaping of the harvest. All the yield on which there is a holding should be left. The rest may be released. The ryot shall be allowed to sell the grain and then have it released. They are collecting a watching charge between 4 annas to 8 annas. This is an unnecessary expenditure. The yield is attached and taken away without the knowledge of the ryot. It is only when the heaps are released that the ryot can sell and pay the dues. But this they are not doing. They are appropriating the grain in lieu of the watchman's charges.

The ryot cannot sell if the grain is kept under his custody and a receipt is taken from him. If he sells in that manner, he can be punished according to the Penal Code. I request that the ryot may be given some freedom with regard to this custody.

They will file cases under "saleable interest sale" being encouraged by the village officers with the hope of getting some benefit. They will put the land on sale and take Rs. 10 for the sake of the sale application. Such selling causes much loss to the ryot. For a small amount due, they will attach 10 acres of land, and auction it. They will get the sanction from the Revenue Divisional Officer. Thus so much land is sold for a small sum due. Till now my lands are not sold like that.

One of the joint pattadars in the Rajulampudi village paid all dues but other pattadars of the same joint patta did not pay their dues. So all the land was put to sale in auction according to saleable interest sale. Thus the one who paid his dues also had to incur the loss. The estate authorities of Ramanakkapeta punished some parlars, farm servants. A Devara bought 40 acres under the authority of saleable interest sale. This should not be allowed. The pattas must be released. Filing records. For an attachment of property only, hay also was auctioned in Kondangi village. They have got the right to attach but they have not the right of selling the hay. In two more cases of the same sort, where the saleable interest sale notice is given the ryot was left nothing as a matter of fact. Filing papers.

*Durgada.*—There are two pattas—depending solely on rain water. Even for paying the taxes, the yield is not sufficient. We have to do other work and pay the income that we get out of it towards the taxes. There the rates are Rs. 8 for dry and Rs. 15 for wet. The cattle were sold. So also ghee was sold. I am filing a specimen copy which tells about the cesses.

Irrigation and other water sources must be managed by the Government but not by the zamindar. They should not interfere at all. In Mallavaram there is a land of 1,313 acres and 48 cents. The ayacut under the tank is 1,400 acres. Seven thousand acres



were originally cultivated. The cultivated extent under the tank in 1865. These 7,000 acres could be easily irrigated. There were seven sluices then. Later on fourteen sluices were constructed and the extreme ayacut was extended. Seven thousand acres more are thus being irrigated. Two more sluices in 1905, two more in 1906 and two more afterwards were constructed.

This tank is the water sources for three villages. Land was measured on the border lines of Alamalle Ramapuram and Ramanakkapeta. According to No. 15 (order) sanction was given for the construction of sluices. They have arranged to construct canals. The number of sluices were reduced as all the water was let out leaving nothing to remain in the canal. Hitherto was being supplied from the Eleru. After these sluices were constructed, these lands came to be at the tail-end of the canal. There is the canal: but what is the use? No water is supplied by it. The Government has been informed by us that No. 15 sluice caused much loss to the people.

We did not send a petition to the estate authorities. We reported in person. They said that what is already sanctioned cannot be meddled with and that the order cannot be altered. As loss is being incurred, the lands were sold. Chepadurti (Chandurti) is subject to floods. They tried to obstruct the flow towards Durgada by appointing some arbitrators. Out of fear, they sold the land. A person in Chebrolu also sold.

The water-supply of the tank reduced itself very much. The tank-bed was not properly repaired. We are not getting even one-third water of what we were getting some time back. If the tank is full, the water will be sufficient for more than one year. Now the water is not sufficient for this year even. We have to suffer for want of water. In Injavaram village, a list of seven years' yield is written, when sluices were constructed for the tank. Before that there were floods. For the 800 acres of land in the Jaripadu village which was irrigated by a canal and a stream, after the construction of sluice No. 14, the water-rate was increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. Till then it was dry wet. They made it wet and increased the rates. This village is curbed in this manner. Applications were sent. They said that they would look to it later on. The applications were not considered at all and nothing was done. (He read the memorandum of the zamindar and the report of the karnam. He produced the accounts of the estate and he sent up petitions to the Government.)

They applied to the Government. (Filing its copy.)

Kodari and some other villages are cultivated by the surplus water of this tank. Eleven villages are getting the benefit of the sluices of this tank. These are lands where wet crops are raised. For the lands of these villages also the rates are increased. Suits were filed and decrees were given declaring that this sort of increasing the tax is unjust. (Filing those papers.) The practice is that water from the sluices or kalingas should be given free. Kalinga means outlet. Surplus water will be let out (drained off). Even those people who use that drained water are levied increased taxes. These are unjust taxes. (Filed documents.)

A petition was sent to the revenue inspector stating that the Thondangi, the rivulet bringing water from Pampa river, is not giving adequate supply of water. But this petition remained uncared for. The villages sent applications and even reported the matter through telephone. No reply is given as yet. I wrote to the Revenue Divisional Officer. I sent a money order. If the revenue inspector is not given his mamul a customary bribe, such things will happen. Something must be given as reward. What is cultivated in the field is given. Vegetables and pumpkins are also given. The inspectors have no claim over these but generally they are given. I don't know anything personally. I was informed so when I went to Thondangi. The taxes should be collected in January instead of in September. There will be no harvests in the month of September. We will reap in December. We will not dispose off the grain before the end of February. If the tax is collected in January, it will be convenient for the people to pay.

*Durgada—Vizianagram village—Rallapati tank.*—There is a village called Vizianagram. The Rallapati tank must get water via Durgada. The Durgada people obstructed the flow and hence much loss had been incurred by the ryots. Suits were filed. The Raja Sahib escaped. But he was included when the case was sent to civil court. I am submitting the judgment.

The estate authorities are auctioning the trees. We have got records of the suits filed regarding that. It was decided that it was unjust. It was decided in both the cases that it was very unjust to stop the flow. (Filing the report of the commissioner.) So much hardship is given regarding water-supply.



Till fasli 1321, i.e., before the enactment of the Estates Land Act, the kist included the water-cess also. Later on they began collecting the water-cess. Suits were filed in all the three courts. Criminal cases were also filed to subdue the ryots. The allegation was that the ryots have broken the sluices and damaged them. The High Court decided in both the suits that the water-cess need not be paid. (Alavalli cases—Lands irrigated by the tank. These documents are filed.)

*Durgada.*—In this village, water-cess has been levied on lands that are watered by rain only. Suits were filed and decision was given that the cess should not be levied. (Filed documents.)

The estate authorities are levying these cesses even though the abovementioned decrees and decisions are issued. These unjust exactions should be removed. These cesses are collected even though the crops get dried for want of rain water. (Filed papers.)

*Classification.*—The lands in this estate are wrongly classified by mistake. Papers were prepared in 1857. They were classified as—Gayali lands, pure gayali, dry, and dry wet and wet. This is the handiwork of karnams. We have judgments in favour of this statement. Gayali lands mean porambokes. Applications were sent to the Deputy Collector and suits were filed. It was decided that these cesses are unjust. Still that cess is now being collected for land No. 185, unmindful of the said decrees. We don't have those accounts. We have got the water tax account book of the estate. If you read the karnams remarks written therein, you will know everything. Dry land had been classified under wet.

I am filing the mahazar application sent by the Pydikonda ryots asking for the removal of the water-cess. I am also submitting the applications stating that the Chinnayyapalem tank is in need of repairs and that it resulted in a great loss of the yield. Another petition from the Padukonda ryots for the redress of their grievances is also being filed. Filing also the petition from the ryots of Mallavaram.

The lands in Ravikampadu are watered by rain. The crops don't grow well. Remission is never given. A petition stating their grievances is also submitted now.

Durgada lands are dependent on rainfall. Canals can be constructed via Yerravaram. I am filing a mahazar petition requesting that the Government must take up the Yerravaram project.

The estate authorities have cultivated some lands in Musalayyapeta. An application was sent that the village is very congested and insufficient for inhabitation. Lands near the tank have been given for amarakam under permanent pattas. As lands near Pantlacheruvu were given away, it is very inconvenient for the people.

Peddintamma tank in Yendapalli, the new Pota cheruvu, Atchayya cheruvu, Narasimharayanimgari tank, Surayya tank in Vagachippa and the Siddham tank—all these given for amarakam cultivation. All the tank-beds are thus cultivated. The tank is progressively getting dried, because of the retention of stagnant water. The only source of water-supply is the tank water. As the tanks are not at all deep, there is no possibility of filling them with river water lest the water may overflow into the fields. The tank is not deep and can irrigate a few acres only.

The Malladoddi tank had been given for permanent patta. The Krotha cheruvu of Durgada is also given for permanent patta. Water can be reserved after the construction of the anicut. Our villages, being on a high level, have nothing to do with anicut. Though the anicut is nearby, we don't get the anicut water. Eleru is a source of water-supply for us. We get water through a rivulet of Eleru. But the water does not reach sufficiently. Therefore tanks are the only sources of water-supply. There are small tanks under ayacuts of 8 or 10 acres. These tanks get water from rainfall. These lands are given for amarakam for V. Kamayya Garu. Wet rates were levied and three years' tax was collected at once.

*Ravikampadu taluk.*—The Venkataramudu tank and the Dibbalapudi tank get water by rainfall only. Our villages are in a high level and the lands are dry though there are tanks. But yet they are collecting the water-cess.

The water monopoly of the Navakundravada tank and the Nakkulanna tank are auctioned. The highest bidder is given the monopoly. There is land under the tank. If there is much water, it will be auctioned. That water is called residue water.

We have connexion with the Godavari delta. Our villages are "tail-end" villages. The residue water is given away. Some villagers buy that and use it as they please. They sell water just as coupes are sold in the forests.



*Chendurthi.*—The lands of the pattadars are being watered. A water-rate of Rs. 18 is levied. The tank is not at all repaired. But the water is sold.

Therefore the Government only must take up the suggested project.

*Poramboke.*—Vacant lands and porambokes are sold away, just to get money. As a general statement I say that there must be village commons.

*To questions put by the zamindar of Mirzapur.*—The estate authorities have spent Rs. 65 over the repairs of the outlets. The tank-bed remains untouched. Only sluices and outlets are repaired. Though these are repaired, there is no increase in the extent of ayacut. This year the yield is only half, not satisfactory. All the water was utilized for the Dewan's lands.

The villagers petitioned to the manager asking him to build an aqueduct. If this proposed aqueduct is to be constructed, it will supply water for five or six thousand acres.

The village ayacut was not increased by the Poleru. The water in the tanks has been exhausted to a great extent.

The flow is sold away. There are many villages to be irrigated by the tank. I can show them if the committee wishes to see. (Filing records that testify the sales made.)

The estate authorities are not acting in accordance with the High Court decree regarding the Thodada canal. They are giving now and then but they are not following the decree of the court completely. The ryots are not tilling the lands. The banks of the Ramapuram canal have been repaired spending an amount of Rs. 2,000 but still there is no flow of water.

I leased my lands to some ryots. They give me eight bags per acre. For patta No. 33, after incurring any expenditure for repairs, etc., they give me eight bags. I must pay Rs. 114 to the estate authorities. I make a total payment Rs. 120 including taxes.

The Dewan has 800 acres of land under the tank. If the first two sluices are opened, his lands will not get sufficient water. Therefore, he does not allow these two sluices to be opened. The other lands are not getting water properly.

We gave our lands on lease. We have got occupancy right. It is very objectionable.

*Regarding the inamdars.*—The ryots in Gullipadu are working on share system. Remission is not given. That is a zamindari estate land. There should not be the occupancy right. My opinion is that there should not be the occupancy right as I.S.A. auction will be made.

**Witness No. 117.**

**Rajahmundry.**

**21st January 1938.**

**Oral evidence of Mr. Muppaneni Krishnamoorthi, son of Ramaiah, aged 38 years, cultivator, Adavi Nekkalam village.**

By the CHAIRMAN :—Ours is Gannavaram Estate in Nuzvid taluk, Ellaiamma Rao is zamindarini. I have got 50 acres of land in Adavi Nekkalam wet land irrigated by tank. Wet is 6 acres and 40 acres dry. Three acres jarib. The rate for wet land is from Rs. 7 to Rs. 12 and the rate for dry land is from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3. For jarib it is Rs. 15. Rs. 15 for the jarib cultivated with the water from my own well dug at my cost in my own seri or Government land.

Q.—When did you have the well dug? A.—My father got it dug fifty or sixty years before. We cannot pay Rs. 15. Term kist for that well. Though we are cultivating it at our expense they say that we must pay accordingly. The grazing tax used to be exempted before for twenty animals for one acre. Now this also is not exempted. We have no papers with us.

Q.—For how long has this grazing tax been collected? A.—It was put in force during the regime of Raja Varadaraja Apparao and has since been collected for the last twenty years. Besides the tax already imposed collections are made for meralu, patti kunchams and tavazmans on dry, wet jarib lands. Meralu means the kist that is collected from us for paying the blacksmith, washerman and madiga for their own service. Sometimes they give receipts with seals. Sometimes they give them without seals. They wrote in their accounts that an extent of 200 acres had been granted to us on temporary patta. We are cultivating the same. When it is left fallow we are paying a tax of 10 annas per acre. It has been in our possession for the last 100 years. All the ryots have been issued to quit it. We gave no reply. We gave no reply at all for the notice given. If we cultivate that land we have to give nazrana like this. They buy hay in



places twenty miles away from our village. The ryots must tranship it freely. I worked as cultivation supervisor in the estate. The difficulties of refusing to give free transshipment service will be submitted to you later on by me, that we had been giving free service like that. Even before 1936 from a long time we had been paying a grazing tax of 1 anna per each household animal and 5 annas per animal for herds. There is the Akiripalli Devasthanam within the bounds of my village. Land belonging to them was purchased, converted into grazing ground and a grazing tax of Re. 1 for household and Re. 1 herd cattle per head was imposed. We had been giving like that for a long time. We submitted that we cannot pay more. But they insisted upon our paying it. Our animals cannot live unless they go to the forest. As soon as the monsoon begins our animals have to go to the forest for grazing. Some animals died. We sent a petition to the District Collector. The Deputy Collector was asked to enquire. There are few educated people in our village. So we do not know the procedures in the courts. As we did not know that the Deputy Collector would enquire we could not go and have our say. He told the Collector and made him issue notice under section 144. Immediately police were sent for patrolling. They forced us (filed a judgment copy). They filed a charge against me. The blood of a cock was smeared on the hands of a Muhammadan forest watcher and a charge was filed. The magistrate enquired into it. We applied to the District Collector for a transfer of these cases thinking that justice would not be meted out here. They were transferred to Gudivada. We compromised with them to avoid expenses and going about here and there. We had compromised on condition that household cattle should be charged at 3 annas and herd cattle at 8 annas per head. (He filed the evidence of the village karnam, village munsif and forest watcher.) After this when my goats were grazing in my own grazing grounds the zamindar came with guns and spears and sent my goats to the cattle pound. I filed a charge against him. The Nuzvid Magistrate made me give a compensation of Rs. 50 to the zamindar in this case. In an appeal to the District Collector, the judgment was reversed. We are being troubled like that. They compromised and had accordingly got a document registered. We had to spend Rs. 4,000. We withdrew our case. We had to compromise as we could not secure a loan anywhere else. Their vakil was given 10 acres of land in Choragudi. No patta transfers. They insisted upon all the villagers executing though thirteen of us executed same. We have no herd-stands in our village. There is land (own kamatam) owned by themselves. It is giving us a lot of trouble. Their own land is about two or three hundred acres. If our cattle step into that land they are sent to the pound. We cannot drive their cattle out of our lands. Some time back this village was a mokhasa village. Not an estate village. When the mokhasadar was not able to clear the arrears of payment they took possession of this village getting an income of about Rs. 400, Rs. 500, on condition of giving it back after clearing the arrears and are now collecting up to Rs. 4,000. To bring the land under their own cultivation they turned out the shepherds living on the land and appropriated it. Even it is written there Mangalapollu and Gamalla Chelakalu. There are two tanks. Butchanna Gari tank and village tank. No repairs. They are having breaches and flooding the village. An overflow (kalinga) was built this year. No water flows over it. If the tank has a breach next we will be washed away by the flood. Ayacut is about 214 acres. Water is insufficient. We are not able to pay the taxes. No remission. We request grant of remission in future.

Q.—Are there wild animals in your village? A.—There are deer and . . . They eat away our crops. We should not scare them away. The field estimated to yield half a candy yields only one bag owing to the ravages of these animals. If we represent to them they say that we should not scare away animals. We request that the Government would take up the repairs of these tanks. We request grant of right to freely graze our cattle in the forest and get forest wood. We entirely depend upon the forest. We cannot live without those rights. We pray that the forest may be administered by panchayats. We wish that the taxes also should be collected by the Government. The ryots of the adjacent villages of Akinipalli and Nunna are enjoying free rights in the forest. We did not escape this karma.

Q.—Are there any estate villages or Government lands (around your village)? A.—There are Government villages fifteen, twenty miles away from us. There are many estates but I do not know them.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—You say that there are no grazing grounds. How are you grazing your cattle? A.—We have got forest. If we graze our cattle there we have to pay tax.

Q.—What difference does it make whether there is mohur or no mohur on the receipts? A.—If it is a receipt with a mohur the amount is credited in chitta. Else we are not sure of its being credited.



Q.—You say they object to your scaring away the animals. Why so? A.—They want to shoot them with the guns and enjoy. Because they are superfluous animals they must grow fat and we must deteriorate and become lean.

For questions put by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar in English the witness answered : We get wood from the forest for our own use only. We get cart-loads of twigs for fencing purposes. For these they enter in accounts a tax of 1 anna 6 pies. But they take nothing from us. They have taken agreement from us accepting to pay Rs. 50 if we fell wood and sell it. The moment we fell trees they impose the fine. We are asking in order that we may live happily if the Government takes up the management of these forests, establishes village panchayats and gives them rights in the forests. Never in the year—even during Pongul, etc., festivals—we have right to shoot animals in the forest. Is it not a difficulty for us. Even others come into our fields and kill animals by baits without our knowledge again they ride over us and do not allow our cattle to go into the fields. There was cow-land even before my knowledge. They have begun own cultivation of 100 acres of land four or five years back. The rest 100 acres was given to panchamas for cultivation. This land should belong to the whole village. In this land the zamindar has got a mango garden planted.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is there any record that the land was common or cow-land? A.—We have nothing. The estate authorities have got them. That is land set apart for grazing purposes for which grazing tax was paid. Land of Pothavarappadu Akiripalli temple property was purchased for us by the zamindar. He said that it was purchased for settling grazing-tax. That temple belongs to the zamindar.

Q.—Were you in the service of the estate till 1936? A.—I used to be on kamatam only. I was looking after the forest also when asked. I was removed from service in May 1936.

Q.—Did these troubles begin to arise before you were removed? A.—No; they were always there.

Q.—You were charged for misappropriation of estate amounts. Is it? A.—I lent money. Instead of giving me my amount they brought a suit against me alleging that I had misappropriated Rs. 1,000. In that we compromised for Rs. 400.

Q.—Have you any evidence to show that the wells in the jarib lands are sunk by you alone? A.—Word is authority for us and our Rajas. No other evidences.

Q.—Is tax collected for green grass also? A.—We are cultivating also grams, ground-nut and tanai are also sown.

Q.—Is the jarib in the village 15 acres? A.—It is 100 acres. Some is under dry head at Rs. 2-4-0 and Rs. 3 per acre.

Q.—It is seen from accounts as though the Chellur Estate have spent Rs. 2,000 in 1918. Is it true? A.—They had repaired tank bunds. They built a sluice for Butchenna tank. But water does not flow over it. Sir, the forest trouble is tantamount to a simultaneous sting of 100 scorpions. We are actually dying on account of this.

Witness No. 118.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Gadiraju Ramaraju, son of Ramaraju, aged 55 years,, cultivator, residing at Kesanakurru village, Kesanakurru estate, Kapileswarapuram zamindari.**

To questions put by the Chairman, he answered : Kesanakuru is considered a mutta. I am a ryot there. I have got 30 acres of wet land. About 5, 6 acres is dry land. At present it is Rs. 14 per acre for wet land. For some wet lands not more than 18, 20 acres in extent it is Rs. 12 per acre including the excess of 1 anna imposed from 1932. All is Godavari delta. The taxes for those lands are high. If we could not pay them the zamindars are auctioning the lands. Adjacent to our lands there is Government land. They are taxed at Rs. 2 and Rs. 3. In Kottapalli it is Rs. 1-8-0. It will be about Rs. 2 in Island Polavaram. For us also it was Rs. 5 per acre fifty years before. I shall file the muchilikas. It was enhanced twenty-five years back. By the time of the advent of the Estates Land Act it might Rs. 10. Now it is up to about Rs. 14. In 1345 fasli it was enhanced at 1 anna per rupee. All these combined it come to Rs. 14. We will have justice if we have it on a par with Government rate. Our lands yield from six bags to ten bags per acre. On the average we get eight bags of paddy. Rs. 28 is got. Expenses run up from Rupees 10 to Rs. 13 per acre. I cultivate my own lands. If there is a heavy crop we will have



something left for us if not we have nothing. For lands adjacent to mine a tax of Rs. 13 is levied. It yields six to eight bags of paddy. Nothing remains from that yield. There is a tax of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 for ordinary cultivated lands also. There are muchilikas for them. I shall file them. (Filed memorandum.) For our own lands the tax was Rs. 5 in the beginning. Then it increased up to Rs. 8. Then it rose to be Rs. 10. Since it has come up to Rs. 12 and it is Rs. 14 now.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What extent of seri have the estate authorities got? A.—There is about 800 acres.

Q.—Is it the same in extent from the beginning or has it increased in extent? A.—It is gradually increasing.

Q.—What are the difficulties that the ryots experience on account of these seri lands? A.—All are difficulties for the ryots. Gradually our land is decreasing. Lands are attached for taxes. They are purchasing them themselves. Here and there, there are a few water sources for wetting seed beds. But we get them repaired ourselves.

Q.—Is there the custom of giving tanks on patta? A.—There are such cases here and there. There is a tank by name Chakalivalla tank. It was taken back again and reoccupied. In the village of Ilakuppa an extent of 2 acres of land was given 20 years back on patta to a ryot. We are afraid of the zamindar for sending a petition to the Collector about the encroachments of tanks. The tax we pay is Rs. 14 excluding water-rate.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Was not the increase of 1 anna per rupee the result of a suit filed in 1345 fasli according to Estates Land Act? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—Was it not enhanced after filing suits in the court and compromising in 1935? A.—It was enhanced by 1 anna per rupee after we had compromised.

Q.—Did not the zamindar buy inam lands for the estate? A.—Yes. They brought.

Q.—Do you mean to say that the zamindar should not buy seri lands for his own use? Else who should purchase them in auction? A.—Lands are being auctioned owing to high rate of taxation. If they begin to own seri lands the ryots would have no land left for cultivation.

Q.—You were saying that the zamindar raised objections when the district board tried to repair the fresh water tank. Did not the zamindar hand over to the local fund department some tanks (viz., Appana tank). A.—I do not know. But he raised some objections.

Q.—These two tanks are now in their possession. Is it not? A.—He created some objections. I do not know what they did afterwards. There is trouble even to raise pavanchas (பாவாண்டி).

Q.—They usually give away to the ryots the lands brought in auction. Is it not? A.—For some time they gave. Now the zamindar is keeping for himself the whole extent. They gave the lands until the stipulated time. Afterwards they gave up granting.

Q.—Are you yourself cultivating your lands? A.—An extent of about 3 or 4 acres is leased out. They pay up to six bags per acre. For some lands they give at eight bags per acre but that is only in the case of lands repaired and manured.

Q.—What is the price of wet lands in your village? A.—It ranges from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150. The price of land which fetches eight bags is about Rs. 250. The price of cultivated land is not more than Rs. 350.

Q.—Have you bought any lands? A.—We contracted a debt and bought 9 acres of jeedigunta land at Rs. 300 per acre. The tax on that land is about Rs. 7-8-0 or Rs. 8 per acre. I sold away that land but the debt contracted on its account is still pending payment.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : There was no own seri land at first. Five, six hundred acres of land was bought afterwards. About 1914, after the advent of the Estates Land Act, they requested us to release the lands so that they might plant coconut trees in them. We gave up our rights. They planted coconut trees in it. All the other lands were acquired in auctions only.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : There is profit if coconut gardens are held up and guarded. Land useful for planting coconut if it is an inam is worth Rs. 600 now. It is Rs. 8, Rs. 6, Rs. 10 and even Rs. 12 per acre. In our village there is an extent of 1,000 acres of coconut gardens. I am not sure of the rates in Kottalanka village.



Witness No. 119.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Thota Ramaswami, son of Subba Rao, aged 35 years,  
Veeravaram, Kolanka zamindari, Peddapur taluk.

By the CHAIRMAN: Kolanka is otherwise called the Lakshminarasapuram estate. I am a ryot there. We have got about 800 acres of land there. Wet land is about 400 acres. The rest is dry land. The rate for wet cultivation of zamindari lands is Rs. 31 per acre and that for Government lands is about Rs. 7-8-0.

Q.—What is the extent of the land, wet and dry, of the estate? A.—There is about 160 acres of wet land. The rate for that is Rs. 34. It comes to Rs. 22 per acre. For land subject to floods it is about Rs. 10 per acre. This is about 50 acres in extent. It is subject to floods every year. So it yields less. We have got 60 acres of dry land in Jaggampet estate. Dry rate for the 60 acres is Rs. 170. This is a cattle grazing waste. There are Government lands and Kolanka estate lands under Eleru wet cultivation. Government land is better as it is not subject to floods. There is a turn of 14×3 hours. The tax is Rs. 7 per acre. The Congress Government has given remission at 3 annas. Excluding this it is Rs. 7. Government dry land is assessed at 12 annas. Not more.

Q.—For how many years were you paying the same rate for wet lands? A.—Since the advent of the Estates Land Act, it has been so. By the time the Estates Land Act was given assent to by the Governor and the Viceroy after being passed here (in the internal) they enhanced the tax by 8,000 and now one lakh one thousand to one lakh nine thousand. We were paying enhanced taxes for twenty years. Other ryots also used to pay likewise. We desisted from paying that tax after 1930 onwards on being advised by vakils to the effect that it was invalid even if the muchilikas are executed. The estate authorities filed suits against us and four other ryots. It was dismissed in the Court of the Deputy Collector and in appeal also. The High Court also dismissed suits of three ryots. Ours is still pending, they held that collecting enhanced taxes is not unjust. Those who did not file suits are all paying taxes at the enhanced rates. There are no High Court judgments. There are lower Court judgment (files the judgment). In Kolanka estate the rate for dry land was raised at percentage rate. In our village it was enhanced at Rs. 4-8-0 per cent. But we have got only wet.

Q.—What do you say now? A.—The taxes are too high for us. If it is collected according to the rate prevalent in the adjacent Government lands it is just. Adjoining us there are Kirlampudi and Jaggampeta estate lands. They are still higher. We have also got lands in the Kirlampudi estate. For wet lands the rate is about Rs. 23 per acre. We grow paddy. Sugarcane does not grow. We bought it in 1925 or 1926 at the rate of Rs. 275 per acre. I cultivate my own lands. There was a tax of Rs. 518 levied for the land in 1881. Now it used to be Rs. 810. The rate of tax did not change from 1908. The Government took possession of Peddapuram estate in 1844 and auctioned Veeravaram, Kirlampudi and other villages. Some zamindars bought villages in that auction. They were auctioned to clear arrears in peshkash. Some were brought under ryotwari settlement system without being auctioned. Those that were brought under ryotwari settlement were Divili, Kandrakota, Pulimeru, Jagapatinagaram, etc. They were converted into Government lands instead of being zamindari lands. They settled and fixed the rates. They are lands cultivated by Eleru. The tax ranges from Rs. 7 to Rs. 12. Tax on dry lands is from Re. 1 to Rs. 3. There is very little land in our estate at the rate of Rs. 10. It ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 70. In Kolanka and Kirlampudi estates it is Rs. 10. There may be some at Rs. 70 rate. All these lands belong to the same category and variety. But since one only is zamindari and the others Government there is so much difference. This is most unjust. So we request that the Government rate alone may be adopted. Kanchi Ramanna Garu, amin of Pittapur estate, wrote a diary in 1853 about our Eleru. It is a reliable document for us. Water-cess is divided and settled according to that diary. The kist of Veeravaram was enhanced by two times. Then it was Rs. 8,147, now it is enhanced to Rs. 19,029-15-2. In 1925, it was like that. The prices did not change. In 1853, our zamindar had an income of Rs. 18,000 excluding peshkash as per the diary. Now it is Rs. 83,000, i.e., the income quadrupled itself. In 1874, our estate authorities had registered leases. In 1874 for jirayati lands by name Chintala chenu and Gonelavari pampu, the tax was Rs. 804, 35 acres of land. Now it is Rs. 1,202-4-6 excluding cesses. (Filed registered lease.) In the same year for jirayati lands by name Ava Doddi, Potti chenu, Kamudi chenu, the tax was Rs. 360. Now it is Rs. 789-12-0. The land did not increase but the tax is enhanced by completion. From the Bhubandi accounts of 1799 fasli it can be seen that they are paddy-growing lands. There was no uncultivated land even then. They say that they have required some lands but I tell you this to prove that it is not so.



Q.—Are the gramakantams there now? A.—There are. The taxes on zamindari lands very high. The zamindar is getting more than 1 lakh for an extent of 3,440.97 acres of land in the twelve villages of Veeravasaram. We grow paddy and sugarcane. The price of sugarcane is going down. The Kirlampudi factory authorities are giving less and less prices. That factory was started on the 1st of December 1934. The first two years they bought cane at Rs. 11. Last year it was Rs. 7. This year it is from Rs. 6-8-0 to Rs. 7. Hitherto the price of jaggery was good. From 1932 it has fallen. The price of paddy also fell from 1930. The bag that was worth Rs. 8 before is only Rs. 4 now. We are not able to pay on account of the fall of prices of paddy and jaggery. In the adjacent Government villages kist is collected in January. We request that the collection of taxes should be done in January as in the Government, giving up collections in September and October as at present. Owing to joint patta system in the zamindaris the tax due from one is collected from another. Things are carried on at a quick pace. It is better for the ryot if the taxes are collected by Government servants or village panchayats instead of by the zamindars. We have a hill-stream. It is silted and unless it is repaired at the proper time water does not flow. There is no stone revetment for canal edges. If the banks are not repaired in time we get a turn once in eighteen days. If we lose one turn, the water is insufficient and the crops are spoiled. I do not know the source of Eleru. There are some tanks. The zamindars gave up repairing them after the Estates Land Act was passed. Before that it was profitable for them to get them repaired. So they used to repair them. Since they get their money whether they repair them or not they have given up repairing them afterwards. If the sluice doors are spoiled they are not replaced again. The responsibility of keeping water sources in good order should be taken over by the Government from the zamindars. The villages of Kirlampudi, Jaggampudi and Pittapur are cultivated by Eleru water. There are also Government villages. Owing to joint rights none are taking interest. So, if the Government takes it up the ryots will be benefited. The ryots will not experience losses if there is revetment and doors. Zamindars would not do it. Government would carry on these things. What we request for is the reduction of taxes and separation of joint pattas. I am cultivating my own lands but am not leasing them out. Hitherto we had money-lending business, but we have not got that. The land was all my father's own acquisition.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You are taking other's properties for lease, besides yours, and cultivating them as a sub-tenant. Is it not? A.—Yes. We earned nothing by it.

Q.—What necessity have you to cultivate the lands of other ryots? A.—They are our friends. We have some obligations between us. They requested us to cultivate them, lest they should lose their occupancy rights if they lease them out to others.

Q.—Are you not cultivating the land belonging to Chelikani Suryarao Garu in Sakumalla Thimmapuram? A.—We have executed muchilika nominally but we are not cultivating it.

Q.—In the agreement written in 1936 it seems as though Rs. 4,000 were paid. Is it true? A.—I do not know. My father is alive now. The owners of that land are our close relations. They had got debts. They did not want to give it to others. Because they had confidence in us they wrote it in our favour when the ryots claimed occupancy rights. The signautre on that is my father's.

Q.—According to the accounts of the estate there seems to have been a profit of Rs. 1,500 in 1936. Is it true? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you cultivating any other lands taken for lease? A.—We are cultivating the izara land paying Rs. 19 per acre. We plant sugarcane in the land belonging to Challa Raghaviah, inamdar of Jagapatinagaram.

(Then the witness gave replies in English to questions put by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar in English.)

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you or your father executed muchilikas for a land fetching about Rs. 52,000? A.—No.

Q.—How is the price of land in Veeravaram? A.—There are no purchasers now. As far as my knowledge goes none would purchase land now at Rs. 800.

Q.—It means you do not know the prices? A.—Before this in 1926 the price was not more than Rs. 500. I do not know the present rates. Our estate was not surveyed. We could say so much for acre because we had our lands measured privately. I do not know when the big tank of Veeravaram was dug—whether ten or more years back. Kirlampudi estate was not surveyed.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Are your lands fit for cultivation of sugarcane? A.—The Government land owned by us is fit for the purpose.



Q.—What is the income per acre by sugarcane cultivation? A.—We get a gross income of Rs. 140 per acre. Cultivation charges run up to Rs. 120. There is a surplus of Rs. 20. We have to spend Rs. 20 out of our own pocket. Paddy cultivation is now profitable.

Q.—What is the kattubadi for land? A.—They give six or eight bags.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Sugarcane and plantains are planted, is it not? A.—Adjacent ryots do so. They use Eleru water for plantain gardens in summer also. Tank water also is used. That is also Eleru water. Land-tax and water-tax are collected in one sum. No separate water-cess. For a leader who helped to make the bed of the tank cultivable they paid a present of Rs. 25. There is Simhadripuram tank the bed of which is about 40 acres in extent. (Letter written by zamindar filed.) When the villagers objected this ryot helped the zamindar against them. He was paid for that. From that time the bed of the tank has become less. I am filing a paper in which the details of taxes of the Kirlampudi estate are noted. I do not know the ryots of Kirlampudi lease out their lands.

Q.—Do you think it is better to give jirayati rights to the sub-tenants? A.—The man that cultivates the land must have the right. He improves the land. He may have the right of selling the land also.

*General statement by the Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam.*

"We are all waiting, our name is in the list and we are not called," says one. The second said "Many of us have come. There is no chance for expressing our difficulties and we came in hundreds to do so." We are sorry. This Committee is not sitting quiet. We are doing as much work as is humanly possible. If you think, that we will examine all those that have come, or that the Committee have taken upon themselves the duty of taking evidence from all the witnesses; I do not know if the Committee can complete the report even for ten or twenty years, as there are thousands of people in the land. Even then it may not be complete. Some of these are writing that they are Congress Committee members and Provincial Congress Committee members. Even they are not realizing the responsibility. To examine all the witnesses is good. But if you say, you are waiting, you are seeing what the Committee members are doing. We will examine as far as it is possible. We will sit for two hours in the night also. We will do the needful. You must view us with sympathy and help us but should not grudge us. We examine one witness. Others should see that and adopt the same methods. Consider among yourselves. We will now examine an inamdar, by name D. Venkataratnam.

Witness No. 120.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Dukkipati Venkataratnam, son of Subbayya, aged 46 years, cultivation, Peyyeru, Gudivada taluk, Kistna district.**

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Do you represent the inam ryots? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—Which is your inam village? A.—Madhavaram, Pakarla, Kistna district. I speak on behalf of these two inam villages.

Q.—Have you got lands in both these villages? A.—Yes, I have.

Q.—What have you to say? (The witness submits a printed memorandum.)

Q.—What is the first thing you wanted to represent? A.—I am informing you of the trials made to eject the ryots after the advent of the Inams Act. I am also giving you instances of actions against the rules of the Act.

Q.—You want that the occupancy right of the inam ryots should be established as per the Act of 1936? A.—By November 1931, the ryots of the lands had no muchilikas, etc., they are troubled on the plea of illegal occupation especially as there are no special tribunals, etc. They filed suits first against 7, then against 100 and then against the whole village. Afterwards, the ryots filed pauper suits. By the time of the passing of the Act of 1936 there were no cowles or khats to show that the lands were in their possession before November 1933. As the ryots had no documents to establish their rights, though they were cultivating the lands for a long time, they had surrender deeds written by other ryots. They filed suits alleging illegal occupation. The ryots filed



pauper suits in reply. "They are an association and no paupers" was the argument of the aghahamdars and the pauper suits were dismissed. So I request that special tribunal courts must be established. Kalavapudi Aghaharam, Gudivada taluk, Kistna district. (Files documents.)

Q.—In what village is this? A.—In Kalavapudi. Kalavapudi, Podduvaka, Muthupalli, Rachapalli, Manchalla such villages are in this plight. I am filing the records. Secondly I am submitting the rate of taxation now and then with the difference increase concerning the aghaharam land.

Q.—Is the inamdar the sole proprietor in the case of the two aghaharams. Are the whole villages inams? A.—Yes. The whole village is inam. I am submitting statement about rates of taxation. In 1901 the rate per acre in Nuzvid and Totapalli was Rs. 1-9-0. It was enhanced to Rs. 20-14-0 in 1907 for the same land. I am giving out the reasons for the same. In this land the ryot sunk a well at his cost, with the hope of cultivating tobacco. The yield of crop did not increase on account of the well. Rs. 20-14-0 was not decreased. Jarib crops are tobacco, onion, etc. We accept if they are sown by turns. The cowle conditions lay down that we have to pay more tax if we sow them in other lands (files the cowle). Ayyavarlangari Takkellapadu in Guntur district Aghaharam. In 1909 the kist was Rs. 9 and odd for 14 acres. It is dry land. In 1919 Rs. 108 was collected for the same land with no improvements.

*Puritipadu Aghaharam, Kistna district.*—Till 1921 it was Rs. 1-14-0 per acre. From 1922 it was Rs. 18-14-0. The extent is 600 acres. In 1921 the total village kist was Rs. 1,200. Now it is about Rs. 11,200. The aghaharamdar was getting Rs. 1,200 up to 1921. The land is the same and did not increase.

*Rentapalli Aghaharam, Guntur district.*—In fasli the total receipts were Rs. 350. Now it is Rs. 1,700 (files records).

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is it per acre then and now? Can it be seen there? A.—The land does not seem to have increased in extent. I am telling you generally from the inams statement (files inams statement).

*Muggulla Aghaharam in West Godavari district.*—For the same land the tax was Rs. 7-8-0 per acre in 1904 and now it is Rs. 40. In 1910 it was Rs. 10. In 1937 it was nine bags of paddy, i.e., Rs. 36 worth of paddy. Now I will deal with system of paying half the produce.

*Vireswarapuram.*—There is half share system in hay, grass, hemp and curnies. This is a great difficulty. By this system the inamdar must come from any distance and should be present at the harvest and at the time of measuring, etc. Somehow or other there is a fussle between them. Pali system (this sharing system) should be abolished. If it is settled according to the Government rate there will be no difficulties. The tax should be settled in the case of failure of crop as well as good yield. Remission should be given when there is a failure.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Remission should be given. Is it not? A.—Yes. The witness continued as follows:—

*Gopavaram Aghaharam, West Godavari district.*—It is under half and half share system. Whether the land yields or not, without any considerations of floods or lack of water even if an earthquake comes and agree to pay good paddy.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—Is there "earthquake" in it? Show me. A.—It is not there. I am only giving you the trend.

(Here the Chairman admonished the witness for reading what is not contained in the document.)

(The witness continued his statement.)

As per 1933 Act, if the ryot acquired jirayati rights in an aghaharam in any civil court through any civil suit or order, the aghaharam was in his possession for twelve years. Before 1908 it was "if the ryot cultivated it for twelve years before 1908." In 1933 Act it is "if the inamdar had cultivated the land for twelve years before it will be considered as own jirayati." If we get jirayati rights like that we are prepared to agree. Those who do not cultivate but entirely depend upon civil court decrees should be given a nazarana and the ryot should be given patta for the land. This is our prayer. There are already civil court decrees.

*Devupagadapa Aghaharam.*—There are papers signed by them stating that we have no rights in the hay stacks and yards of the village. There are suits in the Bhimavaram Munsif's Court. There are villages which tried to eject the ryots alleging that they had filed suits before November 1933. We pray that the first charge should not be on the crop. When there is first charge on the land already it is very difficult for the ryot



if there is first charge on the crop. We pray that 'khandrika' or 'hamlet' if there are separate karnam and munsif for them should be considered as villages by themselves separately.

Q.—Do not dwell at length on the facts represented in the memorandum. It is a waste of time for both of us? A.—Yes, sir. I had dwelt on the difficulties of having share system in minor inams in Government villages and permanent jirayati right.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—What is your agrapharam and how many acres? A.—The extent of the agrapharam is 200 acres in Racherla. One inamdar and fifty ryots. The inamdar lives two miles away. The kudivaram right is the ryots'.

Madhavaram Agrapharam is another. It was given for lease. There are about thirty ryots. It is 114 acres in area. Inamdar belongs to Guntur district and has got some other agrapharams.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—You say that an order was issued asking the ryots not to enter the inam lands. Did the inamdars cultivate the lands themselves? A.—No. It is 500 acres in extent. The inamdars are getting it cultivated by the receiver, appointed, after the issue of the order. It is being done by the receiver. It is in a suit. The inamdars are at Gudivada and take the produce. Some are in appointments.

Q.—Do you mean to argue that there were no inam ryots in 1931? A.—There are no ryots but the inamdars themselves are cultivating. They say that it was by surrender from Kalavapudi people. The surrender deeds were got executed, not by the ryots that were cultivating but by others.

Q.—Is there any cowle or khats? A.—No. If we repair the bunds, etc., it is encroachment. They say that the crops on fields bunds are leased out to others. "We have given the wet land to you," this is how they write to us.

Q.—You say the inamdars of Kalavapudi are in Gudivada. How far is it? A.—Seven or eight miles.

Q.—Have they ever cultivated? A.—The inamdars never cultivated. They got 144 section issued to get the ryots ejected from the lands. There are still suits pending. They represented that others, not these ryots, were cultivating. They had surrender deeds executed by these alone.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: (Questions put in English and translated into Telugu.)

Q.—What amount of the crop of each year would you pay for having possession of it? What is the just nazarana payable? A.—Let them pay one year's crop as nazarana and take it.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—You accept to pay one year's rental value. Would you agree to pay the rents prevalent in 1933? You say the rents should be reduced. What rate would you pay for kudivaram right? A.—We will agree to everything that is just.

Q.—Would you give ten times? A.—Yes. If Pali system is abolished.

Q.—The court says that the ryot has got kudivaram right. What would you pay for it? A.—One year's nazarana is fixed. Is it not?

Q.—Do you mean to say that the ryot has got kudivaram right. If the ryot sells it, for how many times would it be purchased? A.—What profit will there be if the right of cultivation is sold? If it is cultivated it is profitable. Even then if we sell the kudivaram right we get one time or double. If we sell our kudivaram right we pay the inamdar kist. We sell it for double the amount. (Twice the rental value of the land).

Q.—Do you sell kudivaram right for two years' rental value? If the kudivaram is owned by the inamdar, and it is enacted that the holder of kudivaram right should sell it to inamdar, what rate do you think the inamdar should be paid? A.—We do not sell it. If it is necessary we sell it for twice the rental. Inamdar should pay the taxes.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—You say that you will pay one year's rental value, is it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you cultivate? Own cultivation? A.—We do it.

(These questions were put in English and translated into Telugu.)

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Are the ryots of Koretepadu the same now as they were 20 or 30 years back? Are they changing now and then? A.—Some change and some remain. When a higher kist is offered there is a change. Some change because they cannot lent.



By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You say the first charge should not be on the crop? Is the land to be the first charge? You mean to say that the agharamdar should go to the court? Is it not a difficulty for both? A.—If the attachment is made in December he cannot pay. We have to pawn before the inamdar. We cannot get money. It is very troublesome if there is the right of attaching the crop.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—If the attachment is for what is due? A.—If there is an amount of Rs. 10 due property worth Rs. 100 is attached. A portion cannot be attached. Attachment of crop is troublesome. There is the land and it is more valuable than the crop. Only we will have some interval.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Can you name one village without parties? A.—The villages cannot be bettered unless village panchayatdars are established.

Q.—Is there trouble in every panchayat in our experience now? A.—The panchayat system itself is defective. Where there are no parties they are run well.

Q.—Do you say that the panchayats should collect where now the Government is collecting? A.—Yes.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—What is the price of acre in your inam village? A.—Cost of an acre is from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. Good seri lands are worth about Rs. 300.

Q.—Are there no lands sold by the inamdars? A.—There is practically no cost for inams left without repairs. No one sells.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Have you got lands in Madhavaram and Racherla? Are they whole inam villages? A.—Yes.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You say that the private leaseholder ryot should have the right? A.—Yes. The man that tills the land must have the right.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Is there a rate of Rs. 5 per acre in Gopavaram? A.—No.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Can you say whether these lands were Government inams granted by the zamindars? A.—I do not know.

Witness No. 121.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Devineni Manikyam, son of Viyyanna, aged 50 years, agriculture, Musunur, Nuzvid taluk, Kistna district.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Is yours a zamindari village? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Whose is your zamindari village? A.—It belongs to the wife of the Raja of Telaprole.

Q.—What extent of land have you got there? A.—It is below 30 acres. Ten acres is wet. Fifteen acres is dry. Five acres is jarib land. In Musunur the rate for wet land is from Rs. 7 to Rs. 11-5-0. It is Rs. 4 also.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How many acres are there at this rate? A.—Two acres at Rs. 4 and odd rate. Seven acres is at the rate of Rs. 7 and one acre at the rate of Rs. 11-5-0.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the rate for your lands? A.—Re. 1-4-0.

Q.—For jarib land? A.—Rs. 31-1-0; Rs. 5-10-0; Rs. 6. One rate.

Q.—Are you paying such different rates for an extent of 5 acres of jarib land? A.—Yes.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM, he said: Five acres are at the rate of Rs. 31-1-0 acres 2-50 at Rs. 25-4-0 for jarib cultivation. Acres 1-70 is at the rate of Rs. 5-10-0 and 41 cents at Rs. 6.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the water source for wet lands? A.—Tank and rain water.

Q.—Are the rates you have given constant always? A.—It was less previously. Jarib rates also were less. From the muchilika executed in fasli 16 it can be seen that the rate for jarib was less. It was Rs. 7-5-6. It was raised to Rs. 11-5-0. That which was at Rs. 18-12-0 was raised to Rs. 22-4-0 and that at Rs. 20 and odd was raised to Rs. 31-4-0. These were enhanced in fasli 31.



Q.—What is the total taxation for the village now? A.—Rs. 13,558-8-9.

Q.—What was the total tax in 1925? A.—Rs. 11,600. At the time of permanent settlement, Rs. 2,222-9-9.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Can you say what the extent of the land was then? A.—No answer.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are your tanks in good order? A.—No. No repairs were made for the tanks for the last ten years.

Q.—For one no repairs were made for the last twenty years. A jarib tank, low level tank all the three tanks are supplied water from the big tank. There is a separate pond. There is a separate tank for jarib and wet cultivation. It was not repaired for the last twenty years.

Q.—Is there no repairs carried out for all these tanks? A.—The tank for wet cultivation had no repairs at all.

Q.—Other tanks? A.—There is one big tank. There are three tanks that get supply from it. Small repairs are made for this now and then.

Q.—Are there remissions in your estate? A.—There are clauses to the effect in the pattas but they are not carried out. No remission was granted for 45 fasli though the crops failed. Some were sued. We applied for grant of remission. Some suits were filed. Remission was not granted on account of the officers' reporting that there is good yield of crop. It can be seen from a file of the registered muchilikas from fasli 1316 to 1320 that the taxes were enhanced (files records).

Q.—Are there village common grounds? A.—There are. Forest lands, grazing grounds and pathways.

Q.—What is their state now? A.—They have been brought under cultivation. Some were leased out as house-sites by the zamindar and houses were built on them. Some of them are in the possession of the ryots.

Q.—Can you say something about the forest? A.—There is nothing to show that the cattle were not allowed into the forest before Ramachandra Apparao Gari time. They filed some charges. He was not successful. He died in 1908.

Q.—Was nothing mentioned in judgments about them? Was it not proved that Pullari was collected in it? A.—It was dismissed as of a civil nature. In 1909 his son Narayya Apparao Garu had called the ryots and in consultation with them had a portion of the reserve set apart for grazing purposes and made arrangements for getting wood from the unreserved. His brother filed a suit to get the arrangements annulled. In a suit in 1919 it was cancelled. It was decided that we had no rights. We preferred an appeal. The Raja of Telaprole bought it. We withdrew the appeal. Untoward conditions were included in the muchilikas and we were made to execute them by force (files copy of charge, etc.).

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Are you now felling trees in the forest? A.—There is giving trees if we ask. They may not give also. They said that the reserve was reserved. The unreserved forest is about 150 acres in extent. The reserved is about 2,000 acres.

Q.—Is this 150 acres not sufficient for cattle and for getting wood? A.—It is not enough.

Q.—What is the extent of forest for your village? Do you mean to say that 200 acres is not enough? A.—It is not enough. Two thousand population. Forest extent is to be fixed as per the extent of cultivation not according to population.

Q.—What is the extent of cultivated land? A.—Two thousand acres.

Q.—How many acres of forest is required for such a village? A.—Two thousand acres is enough (files documents). Survey was carried out. They had a petition written by us. I am filing a copy of that (files copy). There is a difference of conditions in pattas granted in 1331 fasli and 1336 faslis. Black tank, Musunur tank, Chintalapalli boundary. Those lands were cultivated by Chintalapalli ryots. We sent a petition to the Raja of Telaprole. He did not take action. There are flocks of goats and sheep in Musunur. We have to spend about Rs. 300 for manure. We have to pay for grazing them in the forest. Six rams per year (  $\text{రెండు పశువులు}$  ). We have to take their lives and have to give free manure worth Rs. 300. The Raja gives us only half a candy of paddy. They take no tax if these graze in the forest.

Tallapallipadu Agraharam.—There they graze. We pay pullari (grazing tax). The shepherds sent a petition requesting removal of grazing tax. I am filing the same.



Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he stated : Two acres of land belonging to the tank, just below the tank-bund, was given patta under waste land for a nazrana of Rs. 1,200. Repairs are not carried out in time. Notice of removal was issued and when a ryot built a house in a site to have more accommodation for himself. He pays a tax of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. He built it without permission. Sometimes they allow and sometimes they do not.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What sort of house did he build? A.—He built a house with palmyra leaves. Christian. I am a Kamma (files records). We had an agreement to the effect that the bed of the tank should not be given for cultivation. They are water-beds. They gave like that in two tanks.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are there any records to show that they were given like that? A.—They are pattas for the tank-bed land. You will see there "Lands inside the tank" inside land of black tank. Inside the bed of tank. All is tank-bed. Narayapparao Garu had a survey made in 1920. Afterwards the Zamindar of Telaprole had a survey conducted in 1345 fasli. The lands that were being paid at Re. 1-4-0 were taxed at Rs. 11-5-0 and those for which Rs. 11-5-0 was paid were charged at Rs. 25-4-0 enhanced rates. If the ryot refused to take a patta, the patta was tendered. It was put under 'B' form.

Q.—When was it included in 'B' form? A.—In 1345 fasli. Land belonging to Dasan Venkatasubbayya.

Q.—Was the tax enhanced? A.—Re. 1-4-0 was raised to Rs. 11-5-0 and Rs. 11-5-0 was enhanced to Rs. 25-4-0. In one suit the zamindar got money collected by getting the defendant arrested. An extent of acres 5.33 was auctioned for Rs. 240 and the estate authorities got possession of it. Patta transfer was not effected in spite of request (files document).

Q.—In 1347 fasli that rate is for 67 cents. Now it is more than 1 acre. Is it not? A.—I do not know what was in the past.

Q.—Was not the former rate for 67 cents? A.—I do not know.

Q.—The rate completed in fasli 1345 is for 1 acre. Have you objected to it? A.—No. I do not know if we had raised an objection that it is ryotwari.

Q.—What is price per acre in your village? A.—Rs. 400 for acre. Jarib wet, Rs. 400 and dry Rs. 50 to Rs. 40.

Q.—You said that the estate authorities sold a tank-bed land 2 acres for Rs. 1,200. In what year is it? A.—I do not know. In or about 1336 or 1337 fasli.

Q.—Did they sell it at Rs. 600 per acre? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is it useful for? A.—Wet cultivation.

Q.—Is it not estate land? A.—It is not ryots' land.

Q.—"Tank-bed has been occupied," you say. Is there such an extent of tank-bed for Musunur tank? A.—It was so much because of the tank becoming silted. It is the estate records. I heard it from our elders. I am not aware of it myself. The tank was silted since I was aware of it. The tank was gradually becoming silted since I know.

Q.—Is there now cultivation under the tank? A.—Six hundred acres of land was cultivated.

Q.—What is the extent of tank-bed? A.—I do not know.

By Mr. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Was it previously 500 acres? A.—Yes.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What was the price of paddy when it was Rs. 600 per acre? A.—It was Rs. 100 for ten bags candy.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Questions were put in English and translated into Telugu as follows :—Q.—Is the tank bed land taken for lease by ryots of your own village or by ryots of other villages? A.—Our village ryots were given a part.

Q.—Did your village ryots object to it? A.—We objected but they did not listen. They said "Raja is giving and we will cultivate."

By Mr. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Did you send a petition about it to the zamindar?

A.—Yes. We sent.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Did you send a petition to the Collector?

A.—No.

Q.—Why did you not send petition to Collector?

A.—Because we were afraid of the zamindar.



By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: (Questions put in English and translated into Telugu:) Q.—What is your objection for leasing it? A.—We are afraid that the crop will be flooded and for that the tank bed is breached. It is an upland village. We pray that the rates should be on a par with the Government villages. It is better if the repairs to the tanks are undertaken by the Government.

Witness No. 122.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. D. Narayanaraju, son of Chella Singh, aged 30 years, Congress Propagandist, Nuzvid.

Questioned by the Chairman he narrated as follows:—

I have travelled the mokhasa villages of Tuni taluk. I am visiting them on behalf of the Tuni Taluk Mokhasa Villages District Congress Committee.

*Kondaparva mokhasa.*—I have come to give evidence on behalf of ten mokhasa villages. I came to give evidence on behalf of ten mokhasa villages of Tuni taluk. I belong to Nuzvid. I have gathered information. The District Congress Committee has appointed me. As the ryots have not got the ability to represent their grievances (as they have never seen the Government or Government officers at close quarters). I have enquired into them and have come here to represent. I waited there for two or three days and enquired into the state of affairs and brought their statements also. I have got with me the statements concerning ten villages. Tummagudem, Janardanavaram, Marlapalem, Polavaram, Pothanapalli alias Gantepadu, Burugudem, Kothagudem Chatrayi.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he stated: Statement are written by us with the facts orally narrated by the villagers. They were quoting authorities and giving me the statements and I noted them down. They requested me to represent them.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Why did they not sign the statements? A.—They consented and I wrote them. They gave me letter of authority. Summary suits were filed against the ryots of Kondaparva.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—You say you have enquired and wrote down the statements? A.—I wrote them in my own hand. They are illiterate. There are no literate men in that village. The munsif and karnam are for the mokhasadars. After finishing the statements I did not get their signature. I took a letter of authority on another paper separately. I thought it would be sufficient. Others must be enquired about the evidence. Because I had gone there and seen the state of affairs. I had statements written and got them.

The Chairman remarked: “It is not a correct procedure. We take your papers for what they are worth. Please give all the papers.”

The witness continued: The system that is now in Kondaparva. There are no pattas for the land. No receipts are issued. They cannot say that the land is theirs. A suit was filed against 39 after refusing to give pattas and proper receipts when asked. Immediately an injunction notice was brought against their harvesting the crop. An injunction was brought for the whole crop. I thought this evidence would be sufficient. This is a record signed by the village karnam in 1918 in his accounts stating that there was no system of division of produce. This was filed with the District Collector. Now they are insisting upon division of produce. The injunction was given claiming division of produce always.

The Chairman said: I will give you time. Let some one of the village come here. I will give you time. I am telling you that it is a waste of time and there is no use.

The witness continued: The road cess account for fasli 1310 was written by Chatrati Venkatasubba Rao. A petition was filed with the tahsildar stating that there was grazing tax in the village and that fees had to be paid for getting fuel, etc. The karnam was made to write that there was no grazing tax and no fees for getting fuel, etc.

The Chairman said: “If you want the committee to know these things you must get some one who had written these things to give evidence.

The witness continued: I have gone into the question of free service, free manuring and imposing fines. The Bezwada District Collector came and enquired in person. This is the petition. These are the things I have personally observed. There are ten mokhasa villages in Tiruvur taluk. The Sub-Collector took statements from the ryots. The enquiry is complete. The Sub-Collector took the statements. The District Collector did not enquire.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Did the District Collector come and enquire? A.—No. The Sub-Collector took statements from all. He enquired. I filed the petition three months back. I filed the petition with the Bezwada Sub-Collector in September 1937.



Q.—Had they given the petition before you went there and had the statements from them. A.—I filed a petition separately besides theirs. Some petitions were received by the District Congress Committee from the ryots. I went and enquired about the contents of the petitions, took statements and filed the petitions with the Collector. The Collector had come and enquired, I do not know the result. I was present at the time of the enquiry in Kondaparva and Chatrayi. He enquired if "free manure" is demanded. "Is there the system of giving free tilling service for the mokhasadar." He enquired. He asked if he is taking one ram for plough. He asked if there was authority to show that the land was theirs. They said that they would cultivate if they were given podu ( పొదు ). The rates of taxes were less before since they were enhanced. "Our village was not surveyed. They take rent for 10 acres saying that it is so though it is only 1 acre" they said. They represented that taxes once paid were collected once again. They said that there was the system of driving the cattle to the divanam or palace. All these were recorded. These records are with the Sub-Collector.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Are there suits before the Deputy Tahsildar? A.—There are cases in the case Kondaparva.

Q.—Who is he? A.—Mokhasadar of Kondaparva is one Mr. Gottipundla Bapayya.

Q.—Who filed a case with the Deputy Magistrate? A.—The mokhasadar himself filed a cattle trespass case. It is still pending. It was filed against 29 ryots about a month back.

Q.—Did the ryots boycott the mokhasadar—washerman and other service people not giving their services to him? A.—It is a lie.

Q.—Is there no propaganda against payment of taxes? A.—No. We asked them to pay taxes if they gave receipts. The ryots are complaining that the same tax is being collected twice. The mokhasadar insists on division of produce. They say we will pay in coin.

Q.—Is the mokhasadar only one? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was not the mokhasadar afraid and migrate? A.—Four or five years back a ryot was beaten and the ryot had to leave the village.

Q.—How long have you been a propagandist? A.—For the last four or five months.

Q.—From what month? A.—In September I was asked to enrol congress members. For two months before the receipt of the questionnaire I was engaged in propaganda work.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you anything to say? A.—I filed a statement about what they are doing in Kondaparva. All these things were represented to the Collector.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Has the Collector personally inspected? A.—The Sub-Collector sent them to the Deputy Magistrate for enquiry. He enquired and submitted it to the Sub-Collector. When the Tahsildar of Tiruvur made enquiries he thought there were no big ryots. He said "You are all agricultural coolies. You must give free manure to the Raja. You must keep quiet if you are beaten." The ryots were afraid and sent telegrams to the Collector and the Revenue Minister. They said that they had wired stating that the Tahsildar of Tiruvur was under the influence of the mokhasadar. Fearing that they would be convicted even if the case was not strong they got it transferred. The Magistrate of Bezwada would enquire into it.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you got land? A.—No.

Q.—What is your profession? A.—Hitherto I was a dealer in cycles, gramophones and watches. I am working actively. The shop is not running well. I have a shop and sell them in it.

Q.—On whose behalf did you go to the mokhasas and enquire? A.—I was appointed a member of the agrarian committee—Tiruvur taluk agrarian committee. The resolution was passed on the 20th November. Myself and Sri Nukala Vira Raghaviah were appointed to enquire into the troubles that were being undergone by the mokhasa ryots and report the same to the District Collector. The petitions that I have filed have been taken by me in person in the mokhasa. I went to the Tiruvur taluk alone. The zamindar and mokhasadar did not like our going there for pracharam. I preached that taxes should be paid only if a proper receipt was issued.

Q.—Were the washerman, palem and household servant not allowed to go to the house of the mokhasadar and thus boycott him? The mokhasadar sent a petition about this to the district officers. Is it not? A.—No district officer served me notice prohibiting me from going to Kondaparva. Neither did they tell me orally.



Q.—Do you know that the mokhasadar was boycotted by all? A.—They are giving very low wages, 9 pies. They demanded more. They have migrated to Vissannapet and living there. They are earning 6 annas by collecting groundnut and tangedu ( తంగెడు ) wood. They say that they are prepared to work with the mokhasadar provided they are paid the same wages.

Q.—Did not the mokhasadar of Kondaparva get fourteen people from Ellore? A.—He got rowdies from Ellore. One of them went to a Vysya and asked him if there were eggs. The Vysya asked him "how is an egg." On that he beat the Vysya to bleeding. We informed the Collector of the same. The Circle Inspector gave a warning. In my presence the Circle Inspector warned the mokhasadar. This year the mokhasadar planted tobacco to cultivate. Seven, eight jarib plantations. Owing to scarcity of water in the wells two were not planted. Boycott was not put into force.

Q.—Were they not boycotted in that village? A.—No.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—For how long have they been demanding higher wages? A.—It seems they were demanding for the last two or three years. If they wanted to go elsewhere for work, their 'father' was called to terrify them to submit and are getting work from them. This is second time and third time. This is the third time that he is boycotted. When they told us that they were asked to go away along with their houses, we advised them to demand coolie as per the rates in other villages. There were strikes three years back and petitions.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Did you tell them anything? A.—We told them to work there only, if they are paid wages on a par with other villages.

Q.—They have promised to pay. What do you say? A.—We did not ask them to accept low wages.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Did you tell them to go only if they are paid higher wages? A.—We told them to go if they liked. But we never asked them not to go.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Do they like to work for coolie or not? A.—If they are paid proper wages I like that they should go.

Q.—How much property have you got? A.—I get Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 by trade.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Were you present when the tahsildar said that free service must be given? A.—I and Makala Ramudu were present when the tahsildar was saying like that. He has got lands in Vuyyur estate.

Q.—Is there land on the whole or has he got land? A.—He told me that he had land. He is not cultivating it, but kept it as waste, he told me.

Q.—How many days do you go for propaganda work? A.—Twenty days in the month.

Q.—Is there any one in the shop? A.—It is a joint concern for me and my uncle. We are living jointly.

Q.—Did you enquire personally into all the things that you now tell us? A.—The ryots are not in a position to come and so I enquired into them personally.

Q.—The ryots of Kondaparva came to Bezwada. You went along with them to Bezwada—Nuzvid. Could you not get at least one to this place? A.—Once we went to Masulipatam and thence we went by walk to Nuzvid.

Q.—Sit in enquiry with the Sub-Collector? A.—It is in enquiry.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—It means that the ryots have a conflict in these ten mokhasas? A.—It is not only in these ten mokhasas that there is conflict. There is conflict in many more places.

Q.—Did you not preach no payment of taxes? A.—I did not say. They filed a suit. It is pending in the Court. They say 'division of produce.' These ryots say it is money rate. I did not find out if they had given or not. The suit might have been taken up yesterday.

Q.—Are you, even now, going to Kondaparva for propaganda work? A.—I did not go.

Q.—It means you have given up? A.—I am going to other villages.

Q.—Is it not your business always to send petitions to the Collector and Deputy Superintendent of Police against Government officers, Tahsildars, police sub-inspector, etc. A.—I never did so. For that purpose there is the anti-corruption committee at Nuzvid carrying on that phase of the work.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Did you know it as you were doing Congress work from September last? Are you doing Congress work at all? A.—I have joined the Congress and am working actively.



Q.—Did you take these statements during the course of attending to these matters.  
A.—Yes. If the officials commit any wrong I inform the Anti-Corruption Committee about the same.

Q.—Are you working in the Agrarian Committee. A.—Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Have they filed suits for kists? A.—The mokhasadar filed suit for division of produce two months back.

Q.—Do you mean to say that they filed suits for recovery of part of the produce presuming that it is also kist? A.—Suits were filed against 39.

Q.—What did they say? A.—They told the revenue inspector that they were paying kists of four and five. Papers were filed with the Sub-Collector.

Q.—Did your Congress Committee pass a resolution asking people not to pay taxes?  
A.—No. The Congress Committee did not pass any such resolution. Neither the Provincial Congress Committee nor any other committee has given any authority for preaching non-payment of taxes.

Q.—You will not do any such propaganda without authority from the superior body. Is it so? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ask the ryots to pay taxes on the grant of a receipt only, in accordance with any resolution of the Congress? A.—They told me that taxes were being collected three or four times. They wanted my advice and I asked them to take receipts for the amounts paid.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are you working on behalf of the ryots in the suit filed by the mokhasadar of Kondaparva? A.—I.

Q.—Did you give notice in Nuzvid of a meeting for helping Kondaparva ryots? A.—I did not issue. Neither the Congress Committee did so. The villagers issued such a notice and they are helping the ryots.

Q.—Are the provincial committees advocating non-payment of taxes? A.—Never did they say so.

Q.—Did you preach non-payment in every village? A.—I asked them to pay taxes and had them paid in person.

Witness No. 123.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mrs. Kanchibhotla Seetamma, aged 80 years, Tenali.

I have got three-fourths acre of agra-haram land. It was given for maintenance. I am giving it for lease. I give it for lease once in three or four years. The ryot is not giving me cowle amount. For the last three years he gave me no lease amount. The kist for the three-fourths acre is ten bags of paddy. I am being much troubled in maintaining myself owing to the non-payment. I came from Tenali to represent the facts to you having heard of the enquiry that is held here. I am living with my boy. My age is 80 years. That ryot had been cultivating my land for the last four or five years. Hitherto ryots of Manchalla were cultivating the same. Now another man is doing it. He said that something had come and so he is not paying—meaning that the Bill had come.

Witness No. 124.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pulagam Venkatramayya, son of Veeranna, aged 40 years, cultivator, residing at Tyajampudi, Yernagudem.

Questioned by the Chairman he stated: Part of my land is under dry cultivation. Two acres is under wet cultivation. The rest had no cultivation in the past and can never be brought under cultivation in future. They are collecting a total amount of Rs. 197 including wet kist, 37 acres in extent, dry rate. We wish that Virampalem wet land should be assessed at Government rate. For dry land the rate is from Re. 1-6-0 to 5 annas.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What do they pay for this land? A.—Rs. 197 for 37 acres.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the water source for the two acres of wet. A.—It is cultivated under the rivulet canal.

Q.—What is the kist for Government wet land? A.—Rs. 2 to Rs. 5. Under the rivulet canal in Virampalem the wet is charged at Rs. 4. There is no other plot of mine under the canal excepting this much.

Q.—What is the wet-rate there? A.—Two to four.

Q.—Have you anything more to say? A.—No remission is granted even if the crop fails.



Q.—You want remissions? A.—We want remission of last years' kist.

Q.—Did you send a petition for the Collector stating that you would like to cultivate the wet land with a dry crop? A.—No.

Q.—Is it a loss to you? If it is a loss why could you not leave the land and go away? A.—It is a loss. We did not quit the land. We are paying taxes at that rate. When we asked the Estate officials he told us that it would take many days to change it. They claimed the ownership of the palm trees that were there. Previously there were no trees at all. They never had them tapped.

Q.—Do you mean to say that the trees grew after you got possession of the land or that they were not trees before the advent of the Estate Land Act. A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there any other papers? A.—No.

Witness No. 125.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Alapati Venkatasubbayya, son of Krishnayya, aged 48 years, cultivation, Chodavaram, Gundepalli estate, West Godavari district.

Questioned by the Chairman, he stated: The former owners of our estate were Kat-nenu Kona varu. They doubled the tax of Rs. 5,000 in anticipation of the advent of the Estates Land Act. It is on the whole village. The ryots could not pay those taxes and raised objections in 1907. Suits were filed. In that suit it was decided in favour of the ryots. An appeal was filed by them in Masulipatam. The court decreed for payment of enhanced rates. The ryots appealed to the High Court on that judgment. The estate was auctioned. By the time the estate was handed over there were judgments in favour of Mothey varu. They doubled the kists. There are many difficulties. When we asked Raju (perhaps Mothey Raju) Garu he said "It is not mine exclusively. I know the rents are high for you. I cannot do anything. It is not possible for me." There are no regular repairs. Double the tax was imposed in 1907 before the Estates Land Act came into force. Afterwards there was no increase. Cesses are being collected. The lands were silted by the red channel. There are no repairs to the red channel. None got it repaired. The lands of the ryots are spoiled. They were silted two yards high. The rate is Rs. 3 to Rs. 6. Not even a stalk grows there. We wish that we should be taxed one-sixth of the income excluding expenses. Adjacent Government lands of Anantapalle are cleared at 9 annas to 12 annas for dry and at Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 for wet. That rate should be adopted. We have difficulties on account of joint pattas. The zamindar does not like to separate joint pattas. We should have right in the village common lands (banjar). When they want they prohibit us from entering their lands.

Q.—What is banjar land. Are they common lands of the village? A.—The banjar is being used by all people. They do not allow us to go there when there is any difficulty. It should be available for use by all the villages without any objections. We want the system adopted by the Government in the case of repairs to the canals.

Q.—Are the taxes also to be reduced and collected by the Government? A.—Yes. The Government system of collecting taxes should be introduced for collecting taxes here also. We are paying little on account of heavy taxes. They must be reduced to help us.

Witness No. 126.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao, son of Jagapathy Rao, aged 35 years, Indukurpet, Chodavaram agency.

Questioned by the Chairman he stated: There are many difficulties for ryots cultivating dry land. They want occupancy rights. Generally the agency lands are not Government lands. The Collector works as the agent. When they are converted into plains they claim occupancy rights at once. When one ryot clears the forest and cultivates, the muttadar gives it away for lease to another.

Q.—Is there no law against the sale of the lands? A.—There is a law to that effect in the estates. For muttas there is no such Act. They must be given occupancy right first. In Nellypudy mokhasa, ryots who were declared to have no occupancy right are being troubled much on account of that. Whether the Estates Land Act applies or not they must be given occupancy right. Chinnari Gandhi inam is in the possession of Muthangi varu. The Inams Act applies to it. There, the ryots have no occupancy rights. I want to say one fact about the estates. Land taxes are very heavy. It is Rs. 4. I am filing one patta for one piece of land. In Peta estate the tax is Rs. 18 per acre. Tax on an extent of acres 1.50 is Rs. 20-5-0 in Peta estate. Indukurpet, Pittapur estate, tax on 5.45 acres is Rs. 45-15-0, at the rate of Rs. 8.



By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is it surveyed? How do you know the rate? A.—No survey was made. I am giving you a rough estimate? The Government rate for adjacent lands is from Rs. 3 to Rs. 8. The present rates are very high, taken into account from the existing scale. The ayacut under first-class Government tanks is well maintained. (Exhibited photos. of tanks.) I will give you one instance of how the land in the Peta estate is and how high the taxes are. Twenty-five cents of land was leased out for Rs. 4. One gentleman purchased it for Rs. 100. It was taxed Rs. 30. A suit was filed. It was carried up to the High Court. It was decided in favour of the ryot. Because he is rich he could go to the High Court also. Others are suffering as they cannot afford to approach the High Court. In Pothugunta though dry crop is raised on dry land wet rate is collected. It is not yielding.

Q.—Are they cultivating wet land or not? A.—They are cultivating the wet but no yield.

Q.—What estates? A.—Peta-Pittapur estate. Ravilanka. I have filed a memorandum about these. A statement about the difficulties of the mutta ryots was filed by a ryot. I am giving it to you.

Q.—Have you got lands? A.—I have got a small extent. Four acres in Peta and 11 acres in an adjacent estate village.

Q.—Is the land of Peta wet or dry? A.—Dry.

Q.—Wet? A.—There is a tax of Rs. 4 for 9 acres.

Q.—Are you cultivating it yourself or are you leasing it out? A.—Wet is being leased out.

Q.—Is Peta estate a permanent settlement zamindari? A.—Yes.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—What is meant by mutta? A.—Some lands were taken from the Raja that was in possession of them at the time Rampa-Pituri and they were granted to those who helped the Government during the Pituri. They are muttadars. There are about twenty-five to thirty muttas in Chodavaram agency.

Q.—Are there mountains? A.—Yes, there are. There are rivers and the adjacent lands. Projects may be constructed. With the completion of Toringadda project all these are thrown into back ground. Reddy Nayudu Garu had promised Sitapalle project. An extent of 20,000 acres of land can be cultivated. They gave 40 years back. Before that they used to be under the control of the Raja of 'Rampa.' No jirayati rights. No patta and no muchilika. Felling trees in forest, cultivation of dry land. If the muttadar asks him to quit continuing cultivation at another place. There is a large scope for development. Poverty is staring them in the face. If we develop this we can make their poverty and unintelligence disappear.

Q.—How many ryots will there be in a mutta? A.—All are ryots. All cultivate by working hard. There will be about two to three hundred in each village.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are they cultivating Podulu ( పోడులు ). A.—Yes. They are doing. They develop it and cultivate it with the help of rain. There are trades also among them. They can do the whole collection work.

Q.—Does not the Estates Land Act apply to them? A.—No. They cannot be considered as estates.

Q.—Is the collection work to be entirely handed over to them. A.—Yes.

Witness No. 127.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chintalacheruvu Venkatrao, son of Venkatramaiah, aged 44 years, Cherla, Nuguru taluk.

Questioned by the Chairman, he stated: Cherla is 150 miles away from this place. It was transferred to Madras Presidency from Central Provinces in 1909. Settlement survey was conducted in 1905. It was ordered at the time of the transfer that the Central Provinces Law should be in force. There ought to have been a settlement survey in 1922. But it was not conducted. Central Provinces Act is not in force. That Act was not annulled for some reason or other. I wish that the Estates Land Act should be made to apply to us also. I wish that that should be separated from the agency and tacked on to this. The estate authorities had a portion of the peshkash set apart for the repair of tanks, etc. Velamas are the owners of Cherla, Albaka and Nugur. They are living at Hyderabad. They do not get the tanks repaired. We have to pay the taxes with the help of the Government. The help of the Government ryotwaris is to be sought for paying taxes. They are fixing them at their will and pleasure. They are imposing higher taxes than the Government. The



people are not able to bear them. I have got lands there. I pay a tax of Rs. 200 to the estate. For dry land the rate is from Re. 1 to Rs. 9 and that for wet is from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. The rate for Government wet is up to Rs. 2-8-0. For dry land it is 8 annas. We request that the taxes must be reduced to this rate. That Act should be repealed. We welcome even the Act that is in force here. That must be published.

Witness No. 128.

Rajahmundry.

21st January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Medikonda Balaramaiah, son of Ramaiah, aged 40 years, cultivation, Mulakallanka, Pithapuram estate.

Questioned by the Chairman, he said: I am a lank ryot. Mulakallanka belongs to Pittapur estate. I have got 16 acres of land in the island. It is an inam land. I came here to represent the difficulties of Lanka ryots and the troubles inflicted on us by the zamindar. Taxes are high. They are lands in the midst of the river. Taxes are very high. Taxes on tank-lands are very high. Patta No. 45 of Mulakallanka is acres 6-10 and the kist is Rs. 232. Polina Venkatrao cultivates javari in it. Tobacco cannot be grown. It is high level island. That rate is high. Formerly for 6 acres of the same class of land the tax was Rs. 4-10-0 in fasli 1308. The tax was enhanced by so much. If we can get more produce and we get higher prices for the same we do not question it. It is a habit to enhance the rents every year. It is the custom to separate and auction then. The estate authorities make the leader pay what they want to be paid—this is what is going on. Before my knowledge the custom was to enhance the rate by turns system (Vantu-vari). Auctioning was introduced afterwards. Moreover kists were enhanced in anticipation of the Act of 1908. There are some old pattas. The tax for 2-41 acres was then Rs. 6-10-0. This was the rent previously.

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These are former rates.

In Mandapalli Lanka of Pittapur estate also the rates are very high. There is a rate of Rs. 40 per acre. Javari can be cultivated. There is a rate of Rs. 33 and also Rs. 63 and Rs. 36 also. About Prakkalanka there was a suit in the Ellore Sub-Court between the zamindar and the Government. There was a compromise. Tobacco field Rs. 5. Javari Re. 1. Beedu (uncultivable waste land), they compromised at 4 annas. (Files documents.) The taxes that are collected as per that compromise are unjust. In Kotipalli of the Vizianagaram the tax for acres is Rs. 25-10-0. There was land assessed at Rs. 70 and the ryots relinquished these lands. To eject the ryot they raised the tax and when he relinquished the land and then the land was leased out to others for a lesser amount. They are depriving the ryots of their jirayati rights by giving the lands on ijara system. The lands leased out by the Kopparam estate also were accepted as having jirayati right. The land belonging to Vizianagaram estate was given for ijara. It was given lease to another. The estate authorities accepted the same and granted a patta. Jirayati right should be given for lands cultivated by the ryot. (Even if granted to the ryot for one year on ijara system it was filed.) The lands that were relinquished by the ryots were granted pattas in the names of their relatives and clerks. It is to deprive the ryots of their jirayati rights that the lands are leased out in the names of their relatives. In their names they are being treated as own cultivation area. They are creating jirayati rights by giving the jirayati lands on patta for one year. (I am filing pattas showing the higher tax that assessed on the jirayati lands of Prakkalanka by the side of Mulakallanka.) Inugantivar, Pyndavar and Muthangivar are enjoying them at one year each. I have already informed to you of the high rate collected in Kotipalle lanka. The Government rate per acre Rs. 8-4-0, the kist is Rs. 4 per acre. The zamindari rate is Rs. 25. Iynanilli lanka is Government. There the rate is Rs. 8-4-0; Rs. 10-14-0; Rs. 5-15-0; Rs. 3-8-0; not none. It is a high level island and the soil is peculiar as to the yield of crop also is. In Kadiyapu lanka the rate is Rs. 9-13-0. In the adjacent Government village Vemagini it is Rs. 3-10-0. In Pittapur estate they collect "Tativala tax" for palmyra trees situated in jirayati lands. The loss sustained by the presence of the trees is borne by the ryot. The zamindar is gaining. The fields are not yielding well on account of the presence of trees. The zamindar should not have the right of enjoying that tax. There should be no tax collected on the trees whether they were there before the Act or after it. There are inundations. In zamindari villages dry taxes are collected from October. They are not as in the Government. The zamindars, unlike the Government, do not allow us to harvest the crops unless we pay the zamindari



kist. Even though there is rain and the danger of the crop being washed away the zamindars do not allow us to pluck the chillies unless the tax is paid. It is not so in the Government villages. The Government system should be adopted. First charge must be on the land. In the process of the collection of taxes, the zamindars are taking to task people who acted against them in elections under the joint patta system. The joint pattas should be separated according to the actual possession of each. The possession of each ryot should be intimated to him and joint pattas should be separated. There was no Government survey. There is 1,000 acres of zamindari jirayati in Mulakallanka. Seven hundred acres and odd had been relinquished. It was from 15 to 40 per acre. Now as it is enhanced 300 acres are being cultivated. By relinquishment jirayati right even is lost and so they are suffering. In Prakkalanka there is an extent of 2,000 acres, of which 1,000 acres are relinquished and they are now auctioning them for a lesser rate. Adjoining it is Sitanagaram estate. It belongs to Vadrevu varu and there are also islands in it. In Vizianagaram estate the patta was for Rs. 7,700 when they were not able to pay patta was granted for Rs. 2,600. They leased it out for Rs. 2,600. No jirayati right was granted. It was struck off for Rs. 7,600 in the name of Mudragada Tatayya in auction. His grandson was granted the same for Rs. 2,600. For the present incumbent no jirayati right was granted. I am representing that the taxes are unbearable. From this I submit that the former taxes are very high.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—Had they jirayati rights before? A.—Yes. In Vangalapudi there was a patta for Rs. 1,000. Now it is leased out for Rs. 300. The fact of the zamindar leasing out the lands for a lesser amount is itself proof of how unbearable the zamindari taxation is. In every zamindari there is a trial to do away with jirayati right and convert the lands into own cultivation. Seris the same thing is going on in every estate for example, Gopalapuram, Pittapur, Kapileswarapuram, Inugantivaripeta.

Q.—Are there some islands without jirayati right? A.—There are. In islands the jirayati lands are cut by the river and are inundated. Even though they are inundated the tax for the whole patta land is being collected. If we do not pay tax for the inundated land also they do not grant us land if the river deposits the same island again. The island that is deposited afresh must be given to the former ryot. Sand is deposited by the river on the cultivated land. If it is a waste land we can sow at least castor seeds. Remissions should be granted, I will say something about the cultivation of common lands.

The common lands used to be in the possession of the ryots. There are island lands for every estate. But they claimed all the reserves after the advent of the Act. They are collected 3 annas for buffalo and 10 annas for cow every day. Thus the ryots are being prevented from grazing their cattle. It is to be paid morning and evening. They say "all land is ours." There is no forest in Mulakallanka. But there are some bushes. For tobacco-growing lands it comes to Rs. 100 per acre. Remissions must be granted. We can pay one-fourth share of the profits, excluding expenses, to the zamindar.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : The zamindar should take tax only if there is any surplus. Lanka tobacco is dry crop. I carry on cultivation. There is only a profit of Rs. 4 per acre. If it is own there are expenses. For manda, etc., Rs. 40. Even then there is a loss of Rs. 10. For ploughing Rs. 20. It must be filled for three months. The land must be turned with spades. It must be weeded. Ten people are required for all these.

The Government should collect taxes. It should not be in the hands of the zamindars. The Government system should be adopted. The estate officers should have no opportunity. The munsifs should collect taxes. Islands are deposited in the beds of the rivers. They must be handed over to the village panchayats. They may be given to poor people.

Questioned by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar : The patta is granted in the names of the relatives but it is written in the name of another. It is benami assignment. Nominal patta but tax is to be by these alone. There are pattas in the names of the wives and daughters also. We have no access to the accounts of the zamindar. So I cannot give details. This system is very prevalent.

Q.—What is the loss to the ryot by this system? A.—It is a loss to them because they lose the jirayati right. There is much loss. He is not sure about the retention of the land in the coming year.

Q.—What if the land is not leased out to others? A.—Others also must have land. A jirayati land must again be the same. Jirayati lands are being occupied for default in payments.

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : The ryot does not leave it in auction if the tax is just. No one buys it if it is high. There are joint pattas in islands. The lankas all the cultivable lands in them, should be granted for jirayati.

Q.—What should they do without giving to relations (referring to the binami transaction)? A.—Land must be given to those who toil and labour to cultivate it. If there is a surplus after giving it to the villagers it may be leased out to other villagers.



Q.—If other villagers are Binamidars, what can they do? A.—If the land is given to the cultivator the question of binami does not crop up at all. The cultivator must have the right.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : The expenses for cultivation of lanka land is Rs. 100 whether it is turned over or not.

Replying Mr. M. Pallam Raju : It is common when the crop fails in the islands, to have a loss. There is greater loss if the tax is collected before the harvest of chillies. There are many who had sustained loss like that.

In reply to questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : I have got land in Mulakallanka. There is no cultivation in estate lanka. I have given out all what I said by my experience. I have no land in the estate. There is cultivation. I am the secretary of the Zamindari Ryots' Association. No zamindari land at all, I am living in a zamindari village. I was born and bred up there. Now and then I am conducting the auction of the zamindari lands. I have got inam lands and inams only. I had been member of Zamindari Ryots' Association for the last three years. The association had been in existence from 1933. There is 16 acres of inam in Mulakallanka. Now and then I carry on the work of auctioning in the islands. For the last five or six years there had been loss. I cultivated for one year in Tempugadda Lanka of the Pittapur estate. When a new island was formed I did not want it. They occupied it saying it is theirs. Two hundred people were brought in. I sent a petition to the Government requesting grant of it as it is in the middle of the river. Boundary was fixed. Even after that it was occupied. I did not send any more petitions. This was in 1933. If there was publication in the press about this. They did not give me an order in the case of half an acre claiming it as their own. They now granted it to an adjacent ryot of mine. I could not afford to file a suit. Mandapalli Lanka is fifteen miles in extent. I have got experience and so I can say. I know all the facts that I have narrated. All are known facts. The rates in Mandapalli Lanka are not the same from 1890. It seems they were enhanced. I have no records for that. Some ryots relinquished the lands.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : There was an enquiry by the Andhra Provincial Association. They applied to the Raja. This was in 1933. They did not send a report to the Collector. I sent it to the zamindar in registered post. The parties cropped up in the village then only. There is loss for lack of drainage. In order to lose jirayati land is left waste, bushes are allowed to grow. We sent a petition to the Collector four months back. Even though our cattle do not go there they are driven to the pound. The trouble about the acre was before the association was started. Lankas are auctioned by the Government also. They are very little. There is no occupancy right even there. Auction is for periods of twenty, ten and five years. It is not like that. There is no auction for two or three years. No auction for that which often breaks away.

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : The system prevalent in the Government islands is acceptable to us. It is enough if the conditions prevalent in Government villages are adopted. Remissions should be granted. No remission even if sand is deposited. Remission is granted for island which is inundated. Then jirayati right is lost. Some are giving Rs. 2 also.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : Grazing cattle without fees was in vogue before the Act.

Replying the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : No remission was granted in my memory. Even for the inundated land. Seven or 8 acres was broken. If asked we are asked to relinquish. We did not apply. There is no such custom.

Witness No. 129.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Jandhyala Venkateswarlu, son of Suryanarayana Sastri, aged 25 years, Burugupudi, Jaggampeta estate, Peddapuram taluk.

I am a ryot. I and my mother possess 100 acres of dry land and 50 of wet, irrigated by the Eleru and tanks. There are several varieties of land in our estate.

For those lands that are irrigated by the tanks Rs. 17, Rs. 18 and Rs. 19 are paid as taxes. Even for those that are cultivated by rain water, not less than Rs. 10 are paid as tax per acre. The rates for those fields irrigated by Eleru vary between Rs. 20 and Rs. 40. For our lands the rates are Rs. 25 and Rs. 30. For dry lands the payment varies between Re. 1 and Rs. 4. This level of high rates are being paid since some time before the enactment of the Estates Land Act. They appear to have arisen within a period of thirty years. Refer statements that are filed in the case of Rajapudi. The rates increased fourfold within those thirty years. A tax of Rs. 2 rose to five times the original level. The rise was from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 6,000. This increase can be



found in most of the villages. The total tax paid in Burugupudi rose from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 15,000. Where Rs. 40,000 was paid it increased to Rs. 1,25,000. The estate holders attribute this increase to their spending money for improving the lands. But it is a false contention. Before the enactment of the Estates Land Act, the estate manager converted some land into series. In the case of the Mallisalu village, the Diwan took from the ryots muchilikas for their lands though it has got a patta registered in 1908. The estate holders are cultivating this land without giving for lease.

The ryots also took active part in the construction of the Ramasagaram tank.

The mujaradars of our estates are also rich ryots. They pay taxes of Rs. 10 to Rs. 100. During the period of settlement the taxes have been increased. Though the cowle was for three years more for fear of the enforcement of the Act Rs. 3,000 has been paid. Documents have been filed in favour of this statement—

- (1) Document 16 of Govindapuram. Document 18 of Mallisalu.
- (2) In the Govindapuram document is stated that 2 acres were valued at Rs. 500 where a tax of Rs. 16-8-0 was being paid. To clear a debt of Rs. 100, the whole land was sold.
- (3) 1336 *fasli kist for Borugupudi*.—The price was Rs. 450 for dry and Rs. 440 for wet land. The total collection of taxes amounted to Rs. 11,760. For 300 acres, excluding the tank area, the tax was Rs. 207 in Sivarupalem, for 100 acres of wet land and 11 of dry, the kist was Rs. 2,444 in Borugupudi. It was Rs. 22 at Palem.

As Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 had to be paid in Borugupudi the land was left to the estate-holders. Later on lands were given in cowle to those who agree to pay a tax of Rs. 30. For this neither a patta nor a muchilika was given. An year later, it was auctioned for Rs. 380 and a patta has been given.

The release deed that has been filed shows that not being able to bear a tax of Rs. 30, cultivation was given up. All land including a poramboke of 2 acres 82 cents had been appropriated and after a time those pattas have been given for cowle. In this manner, much extent of land cultivated has been appropriated. Superficial accounts and the estate orders connected with it are filed.

2. In the case of Rayapudi village the Bhubandi settlement accounts do not include the mango groves, tanks, forests and pools. These were left to the use of the ryots after fixing the taxes they have to pay for them. Estate's orders stating this are filed.

By the Rajapudi patta No. 94 a land of 2 acres and 50 cents irrigated by the Gandemma cheruvu was given to Kunisetti Nukayya on his agreeing to pay a tax of Rs. 8-12-0.

Patta No. 95 was granted for a rate of Rs. 2-5-0. Another was given to Adduru Mcolayya for a tax of Rs. 8-12-0. In this manner all the land is being appropriated. Some of the ryots are also following suit. Our village has a common land to the extent of 300 acres. It is a small forest. Even this did not escape the encroachment of the zamindar. The trees were felled and the present Diwan granted the lands for Rs. 4 and Rs. 5. In Rajapudi, land irrigated by the tank to the extent 75 cents in area was granted for Rs. 7-8-0 to Kunisettu Nukayya; 25 cents in patta No. 92 was granted to Kannayya, Gopayya and Kondalrayudu for Rs. 2-8-0. According to patta No. 93 the local cess was Rs. 16. This has been filed.

*Burugupudi*.—300 acres of land irrigated by the Dusurum cheruvu (tank) is under patta grants. It comprises both wet and dry. This also has been appropriated. This tank get water via four villages including our village. Water has been taken also for the Kotaravulapalle series, where the land is under their own cultivation. It was originally irrigated by the Eleru. Its income is Rs. 10,000; water is being supplied for Ramavaram and Jaggampeta. Its income is varying always. In addition to the tax of Rs. 10 jaggery also has to be given. It is now having a rate of Rs. 9 and Rs. 10.

The tank will overflow to 75 yards. It remains for 15 days like that. It must and go through breach or canal. Thus it gives water to their series. It is stated that five sluices ( పంపులు ) can be constructed. Thus water is being made to flow out. The canal is not even half a deep. This water goes through gingelly fields and the havoc wrought is so great that as a result of this a loss of Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,000 has to be incurred by the ryots. The Eleru also will be on floods occasionally. The outlets and the canals must be repaired. Repairs have been undertaken to some extent but they are inadequate and of no use. Again it has been repaired this year but to the same result. I requested that it may be repaired well. The charges for wetting or watering a sugarcane field once is Rs. 5. A receipt of such a payment is submitted. The cost for the second watering which takes place twenty days after the first, is Rs. 2-8-0. A third watering has been mercilessly refused. Taxes are still collected even after the publication of the



Debt Relief Bill. Rent suit in this respect has been filed. These taxes are collected in the name of arrears. Thus taxes are being collected as they like. We enquired whether we have to pay for every year. They replied that we owe Rs. 4. The ryots demanded explanation which was denied. I was also present on that occasion.

Answers to questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : I have got some land in the estate. I cultivate it myself and I will give a part for cowle (I will lease out a part). I have got 80 acres of wet and 40 acres of dry lands. Taxes are collected as a whole. They are not collected at a definitely fixed rate per acre. For patta No. 32, the cultivator pays me Rs. 65 plus Rs. 30 and gives nine quarter candies of grain (9 ఎడుములు) I pay the tax for dry lands. From my own money. The cultivator pays me Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. The tax ranges from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 4. The estate has not been surveyed. We cultivate sugarcane. Several people incurred much loss. This time I planted sugarcane, new variety 2 acres and old one for half an acre. I planted 2 acres with plantains. I have not given any of them for contract. The ryots should have the right of cultivation. Then arises the question as to who should pay the taxes. In my case I don't till the land myself.

Q.—The ryot does not till. Does it mean that the person who works on division system on the soil (పాతెవాటకీ) should be given the right of occupancy? A.—He who works on the soil has a share in the produce. The labourer or the paid coolie does not possess this right. He is not responsible for his work whereas the person who shares the produce is responsible for the work he does.

Q.—Is it advisable to prefer the division system for the system of cultivation by wage earners? A.—That is determined by different circumstances that prevail. We must do according to the necessity of different times. I am entitled for a share in the produce as I provide land, and capital which are the cardinal requisites for production.

Witness No. 130.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Manthripragada Achyutha Ramiah, son of Achyutharamiah, aged 40 years, Lakshmidvipeta, Tuni estate.

I am a ryot paying a tax of Rs. 325 for 12 acres of dry and 8 acres of wet land.

					ACS.	RS. A. P.
Dry land—						
Patta No. 4	..	..	..	..	1-8	12 1 4
„ „ 5	..	..	..	..	1-8	29 13 0
Wet—						
Patta No. 6	..	..	..	..	1-41	30 2 11
„ „ 5	..	..	..	..	1-25	67 13 6

We were getting for our village Rs. 2,072 for fasli 1296, Rs. 2,837-7-8 for fasli 1317 and Rs. 3,351-6-0 for fasli 1346. The kattubadi for the village and the taluk were in like manner. There are no conveniences for transplantation.

It will be good if the tax is Rs. 3 for wet and Re. 1 for dry land. Adjacent lands are owned by some mokhasadars. Lands of the Vizagapatam district are also close by. In the Jaggampeta mokhasa the rates are : Rs. 3 for wet and Re. 1 for dry land. There are also mirassi inams or service inams.

Conveniences of plantations : The tanks are in need of repairs. The canals also need repairs. Tanks remain uncared for, since thirty years. They are not serving well since ten or twelve years. We have got Allepudi canal and Tandava river. Cowle accounts are filed. These are prepared by me for enquiry. I have taken copies of them.

No. 22 patta of Lakshmidvipeta brought Rs. 74-6-0 for fasli 1317. I worked as a karnam for that village for twenty years. I worked as a clerk also. I filed cowle accounts. (ఆమెరికం తెచ్చా)

Kotpam Sivaru (Kotpam hamlet).—I have prepared accounts according to the old ones. I have drawn a comparative statement of old kists and the present kists. By comparing them it is evident that the taxes rose much. I have prepared a register for the Jagannadhapuram lands. No. 22 patta gave Rs. 99-7-4 for fasli 1317, whereas now it gives Rs. 103-15-11. Kotpam village also has the same number. The area did not increase. The land has not been surveyed. I have shown all accounts for those lands. The Allepudi file is also in the same manner. It has been filed. The Kakara-palle ryots petitioned for lessening the taxes. Allepudi ryots also petitioned; so also



with regard to Valluru, Suravaram, Thetagunta, Velamakotturu. In the case of this last one a plan also has been submitted. The mokhasadars of Agency tracts and Mr. Vangalapudi Dharmayya also petitioned.

*Forest rates.*—There should not be any forest rates. But these are being levied since long. In ancient days there was nothing of this sort. I cannot tell since when they are being paid. As far as I know money payments are in existence since mokhasa receipts have been filed. The price is As. 4 per cart. Here it is Rs. 3 last price for wood.

Money paid for fasli 1347 has been written and taken into account for fasli 1341. If the Bill were not to be passed, they can do this sort of maladjustment of accounts. The ryot has not even the right of driving out or threatening the wild beasts though they come to ruin the fields. The land has not been surveyed. It must be immediately surveyed. The rates must be fixed and permanent settlement must be made. Patta No. 5 of Mallepudi has been taken by the Revadi Taluk Board. The money has been taken by the Zamindar. The tax was not cancelled. Ten petitions have been sent. The order of the Diwan on that has been filed. But yet the tax, collection is continued. The estate-holders have received the compensation. That ryot Mr. Chintakayala Gopanna is here now.

Witness No. 131.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Manthripragada Achyutha Ramiah, son of Achutha Ramiah, aged 40 years, Lakshmi Devi Peta, Tuni estate and Mr. Kambampati Satyanarayana.

At this stage Mr. Gopanna was called in and he said: The board have appropriated the land and the compensation was taken by the Diwan. I requested that the tax may kindly be reduced.

**Achyutha Ramiah** again: Joint pattas must be separated. Waste lands, common lands, poramboke land and hilly tracts all these are being given for cowle thus preventing the cattle from grazing. That should not be allowed to continue.

At this stage Mr. Kambampati Satyanarayana who was prompting the witness from behind was called in by the chairman, this being pointed out by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram. And he said: There are hill paths in the estates. The estate authorities were obstructing and preventing the ryots from going through those paths. Many of the ryots have been complaining against this Act. I don't know about it. I am not a ryot. I don't possess any land. I am a socialist. I am son of the present Diwan. I don't know if my father owns any land there. He has some land in Cocanada and Razole. I am a member of the Congress and Socialist Party.

In Velama Kotheru the forest tracts were destructed and new paths were laid. They are situated at a great distance. Many protested against it. Those ryots have left yesterday only. I am a member of the Provincial Congress Committee; also of the ryots' association of the Tuni taluk. All sympathizers of the ryot movement can be members of the association. There are no two separate institutions called Socialist Ryots' Association and ordinary ryots' association.

Answering Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu: Our District Ryots' Association was formed in April 1936. The Tuni branch has been formed in September 1936. The District Association works for the interests of the ryots. The Zamindari Ryots' Association is existing since long. Mr. Challapalli Jagannadha Das is the Secretary for the Tuni Estate Ryots' Association. He is also an active member of the Congress. The President of the District Ryots' Association Mr. Satti Ramanna is also participating with Congress movement. The President of the Tuni Ryots' Association submitted his evidence yesterday. All of them are taking part in the Congress movement.

Answering Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Those zamindars who cultivate their lands can be members of our association. All those who feel interested in the uplift of the ryots can be members of the ryots' association.

The Chairman then remarked: "That is alright. We are digressing." So Mr. Achyutharamiah was called in.

Achyutharamiah again: The control of the watering facilities must be vested with the Government. I request that the control of the streams (పావులు) should be given to the village panchayats. There is cultivation in the inams (జిరాాయిశీతం). In 1925 the



quit-rent inams have been surveyed. This has been reported against. Promising that the requests will be complied with several people were asked to sign on blank papers. We complained against it at once. Signatures were made to be written on stamped papers. They were decreed in favour of the inamdars. The same should take place even now. The zamindars filed suits against the inamdars. Those who did not follow suit had to pay Rs. 200 and Rs. 300. They deserve that.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : There is a ryots' association for the Tuni taluk. I don't know who the president is. It is a hear-say. I am not a member. I am a cultivator (జంతుల పై). I am speaking in the capacity of a ryot. Being confident that I can give a valuable evidence having been a karnam for twenty years, I am speaking here. I am not a karnam at present. My brother is occupying that post. I am confidently giving the evidence as it is based on experience and enquiry. I have gone to every village.

Q.—Why? A.—On being informed by the ryots of every village. The ryots have taken me to their places.

The estate inams have been surveyed in 1229-30. Not all lands are surveyed. When the inams were surveyed, what was stated to be 4 acres in the pattas was found to be 4 acres and 20 cents according to survey accounts. I don't know if there are cases of 6 acres land (according to patta) being found to be 7 acres on survey.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju : These pattas included waste lands and pools or ponds.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : The inam pattas are surveyed according to boundaries. Whatever was in boundaries was measured. The court authorities have given decrees to the inamdars. Suits were filed. They were given according to experience and survey. There is no judgment copy. They informed one month back that the taxes are heavy. There is surplus land in the inams.

Q.—Should it not be the case also with regard to the estates? A.—They were given according to estimates taken.

Answering Mr. M. Pallam Raju : Generally inams are awarded in the estates to sympathizers and clerks.

Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : The Government rates are too heavy. They must be reduced. It is enough to look at the termwari accounts. They are under nimma-kattu. There is a jirayati cultivation of about 60 or 70 acres in Alligudi. There it is Rs. 10, Rs. 6 and Rs. 8. It is too much. It should not be more than Rs. 3.

Replying the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : The Government tax became heavier than that of the zamindar. It also must be reduced, in my opinion. On the patta No. 19, we have not shared. We are not paying Rs. 152 but we are paying Rs. 300. I was a karnam. Joint pattas should be divided and the demarcation of taxes must be done. This should be done by the Government. If the Government orders, the karnam need not interfere. The zamindar never ordered. Orders would be always obeyed. How to experience when it is not given even if it is 10 cents. Even for one cent patta must be given.

Q.—You said that the taxes should be reduced. After 1908, the zamindars have bought the estates. The rates are increased according to the income of the villages. The Estates Land Act has been passed. What will become of the zamindars if the taxes are reduced? A.—There will be no difficulty. The tax for our village is Rs. 1,000 and they bought it for Rs. 30,000. If the rate is Rs. 500, the price will be lessened. Who shall bear the loss? If the taxes are not reduced, what can we do? The ryots are starving.

Answering Mr. M. Pallam Raju : In accordance with the economic conditions, the zamindar also must sustain some loss when the ryot is suffering so much.

Q.—You told that the irrigation works should be given to the charge of the village panchayats. What is your complaint about? A.—I complain against the maladministration of the zamindars. They allow water for those whom they like and refuse for those whom they do not like.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—If the panchayats are established in villages, will it not give rise to elections, parties and the differences and ill-feelings resulting from it? A.—There will be no difficulties of parties in villages. There is no money and the village cannot afford to create party struggles. We don't have a panchayat board for our village. I have got some experience of the panchayats. I can assure that there are no parties in villages. Nowhere. There are parties only in the places where there are zamindars. We will be about 100 or 200 people. The people obey the elders. The



presence of panchayats in the zamindari villages does not preclude the existence of parties. If irrigation works are undertaken, much injustice is done. If we undertake, we don't do like that.

Answering Mr. M. Pallam Raju: The zamindars need the separation and division among the ryots. The Government has no such need. In the villages that are under the control of Government the ryots share the water facilities without any difficulty. In such villages there are no parties.

Answering Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: I have never seen people rioting for the sake of water.

Replying to the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: According to the present Act the zamindar has no right or control over karnams other than that of imposing fines, suspending. That too only when the karnams agree to collect for the zamindars. According to their order the Government dues are collected. It should not be the case. It will be good if there is a panchayat. He who collects is the munsif not the karnam.

Witness No. 132.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Meka Satyanarayana, son of Bulliah, aged 32 years, cultivator, Vegayampeta, Vegayampeta estate, Ramachandrapur taluk.

I am a ryot of Vegavampeta possessing 11 acres of land in one patta. I have got 3 acres more. All I possess is only wet land. For these 11 acres I am paying a tax of Rs. 238-7-11, at a rate of Rs. 21 per acre. My land is irrigated by the Godavari canal. There is high and low level as well. There are 11 and 2 acres. The taxes are heavy in our estate. They must be reduced so as to bring them to the same level as that of the Government lands that are in the neighbourhood. They are in the villages of Sivala Venkatrayapalem and Draksharamam. There the Government rate is from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10. In our village the rates are high. For Rs. 39 levied in fasli 1296 for patta No. 1, at present there is an increase of Rs. 5 making it Rs. 44. The tax was Rs. 115 for 9 acres and 60 cents under patta No. 9. It is now Rs. 125.

The Amarakam rate for fasli 1305 was Rs. 15 and Rs. 5,514-4-0 for the whole village. In 1914 it was Rs. 8,536-13-0. In fasli 1338 it was Rs. 8,787-8-0. The accounts of the Gummalur taluk show the following figures:—

							RS.	A.	P.
Amarakam rates in 1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,401	13	9
For fasli 1294	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,501	0	0
For fasli 1300	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,215	6	0
For fasli 1305	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,497	15	0
For fasli 1310	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,969	1	6
For fasli 1311	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,195	10	5

The Putumalle ryots have submitted a memorandum. The total makta (stipulated amount) is 90 candies of grain—about 90 candies 18 thooms and 37 measures. More than Rs. 400 is collected.

For 180 acres and 49 cents of land under the Gummalur ayacut Rs. 469 has been levied. For patta No. 49 of Nellore, Rs. 189 has been levied.

In 1916 the Government have cancelled the water-cess for Vegavampeta both in the case of wet and dry lands. In the same year the land has gone to the possession of the zamindars. They took from us muchilikas and levied a water-cess. Owing to this the village has to pay Rs. 1,223 more. From the year 1883 there used to be wet and dry differentiation). Filing documents.

In Nellore village even the common lands are being given for pattas. Banjar is under tank. They are selling even cremation grounds. They fixed an annual payment for cultivating. Even the land under the tank in Gummalur has been given for jirayati cultivation.

To question put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: We belong to Ramachandrapuram taluk. There is a ryots' association. I was a member of the reception committee for the conference held there. I enrolled myself as a member of the Ryots' Association on paying a fee of one anna. I don't know who are the president and the secretary of that association. I am also a member of the Taluk Ryots' Association. The ryots came and



reported to me. I am not touring on any campaign. Nor am I bent on any propaganda. The ryots' association have passed some resolutions. All the ryots of Vegavampalli sent a memorandum.

There are not many betel leaf fields, plantains and sugarcane fields in our village. There are no jirayati cultivated lands. The inam lands are under the management of the estate holders. I don't possess inam lands.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju : There are only two acres of betel fields in our village. Ten people share the produce and cultivation. This is done in the hamlet శివారు గ్రామం

The zamindar has granted a remission of Rs. 300 in fasli 1343. The zamindar has set up a middle school in our village. A building is constructed for the school spending Rs. 1,500. Some joint pattas have been separated. Our village has been surveyed. The estates lands are worth between Rs. 400 and Rs. 600. There are some ranging from Rs. 150 to Rs. 350. All are wet lands. The lands of Gudigulla are worth Rs. 100. If plantains and betel plants are planted in Government lands a water cess should be paid.

I don't know the jirayati rate. It is approximately Rs. 20. The sugarcane and betel fields are given for contract. The cultivated or jirayati lands are never given for planting betel. But some underhand arrangements were made and some ryots were permitted to plant betel in the jirayati lands.

The betel ayacut is 3 acres. It gets water from the Patidibba. Betel plantation has been permitted in Perumalla nattam. I don't know for how much it was allowed. The amarakam rate is between 7 to 10 kavillu (bundles).

I don't know how much is being paid for a betel field.

Witness No. 134.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kondapati Subbanna of Kalavalapalle, Kovvur taluk,  
West Godavari district.

Our village belongs to the Zamindar, Kanumurti Krishna Rao Garu. The lands will not yield any crop during summer. It is a waste (banjari) land. If our cattle go to graze there, they will be immediately put into the cattle pound. There are tanks. No one is permitted to take water from the Musalayya gunta ( ముసలయ్య గుంట ) even for drinking purposes. To prevent us from drinking the water they make it dirty. We have to pay heavy taxes. I possess  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres of dry land. It is a rough uneven land. The rate is Rs. 4. It is now enhanced to Rs. 5. We don't have sufficient rain. We are starving. For such land the rate in Chikkalaparava is between 6 and 10 annas. The rate in Pagadasala is Rs. 2. Even that is not profitable. It will be good to reduce the estate rate. The Government rate is reasonable.

The joint pattas should be separated. For individual liabilities the joint pattas will be auctioned. It happened so in Motupalle. Own cultivation ( స్వంతకృషి ) must be extinct. There is land cultivated by the owners in Parlavada. For not paying the lease amount, a suit has been filed. Though the rights of the ryots are well defined by the Estates Land Act Anantharamayya Garu has done much harm.

Though crops failed, he filed a suit for a payment of Rs. 600. They took money and cancelled it. We are thus unjustly troubled. Our lands are auctioned. We are actually starving. The cattle are not permitted into the waste and common lands. I am unable to express in words the difficulties caused by the zamindars. We don't have any other way of salvation. In spite of this starvation, we could not report to the Collector or anybody else.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : We don't have any ryots' association in our village. It is said that there is one in Kovvur. Till now we don't have anything of the like, here. The zamindar got an order from higher authorities preventing the entrance into the waste lands without possessing any patta. God only must save us. The ryots never evaded the payment of taxes. We are paying all taxes. But they are demanding often and often. There is no end for that. In our village properties are often attached. I don't know if it is the case in all other villages of the estate. Rich people take land from the zamindars for contract.



There are no parties in our village. The whole trouble is between the zamindar and the ryots.

There are 8 or 10 acres irrigated by a tank. Sixteen acres are irrigated by Rasi cheruvu and Jaggayya gunta. Due to breaches in the tanks all the land is gone. The tanks are not repaired. We petitioned to the Collector. He enquired but declared that no repair is necessary. I don't know what orders were passed but notices were sent that our petitions were cancelled. You only must come to our rescue. Otherwise we have to suffer untold misery.

Six series are under the zamindari management. So also all the land in the village. We are dying of hunger. Save us.

Witness No. 135.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Bobba Ranga Rao, son of Venkataramayya, Kowthavaram, Kistna district.

Our village belongs to the Government. It has some minor inams. Those inam ryots are put to many difficulties. They are people of the old school of thought. And they are somewhat orthodox. Every year suits are being filed. In times of good harvest, the produce will be estimated and suits are filed for dues of the previous faslis. Thus the ryots are put to much suffering.

I have got a minor inam in Kowthavaram village. That is a (jirayati) cultivated land of 9 acres and 10 cents in extent. I am a ryot under Mylavaram Lakshminarasimha Sastrulu. The case No. 169 of 1927 of the Gudivada Munsif's Court is a suit filed by the said Mylavaram Sastry Garu and Surapuneni Venkatarathnam Garu claiming that the inamdars possess the kudivaram right. The case has been decided by the High Court in Suit No. 61 of 1915. My father, Venkatramiah Garu, bought the inam. Originally I was possessing the melvaram right. I have been deprived of ownership and a suit was filed for possession. The rights were settled.

In 1927, according to the usual dependance system (Asora paddhathi) I filed a suit in O.S. No. 169 of 1927 for half of the produce. It was decreed in my favour. I filed three sets of suits and had the properties valued :—

Munsif's Court.	Sub-Court.	High Court.
169/27	47/29	S. A. 57/31
100/31	44/34	„ 342/36
407/34	195/35	„ 42/36

The suits are filed for the mesne profits, for Rs. 1,100, Rs. 2,400 and Rs. 1,800. Seven and two candies were included in the estate. Half of the rates were paid and it was ordered that the rates should be levied according to the rates in the Government lands. We have the copies of the judgment.

The Estates Land Act does not apply to this.

I beg to say something about the difficulties we undergo in our estate. A fixed money rent is levied in our estate, even though it is a case of minor inams.

I request that the Estates Land Act may be made to apply to this also. There are no registered notices from the inamdars during 1927-38. If there is no harvest they keep quiet. When the harvest and produce is satisfactory in a certain year, an average per year is taken and payment is demanded for all those years by filing suits. I am herewith submitting the documents.

Witness No. 136.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. Subrahmanyam of Yelamanchili, Narasapur taluk, West Godavari district.

The Godavari canal is our only source of water-supply. Ours is a proprietary village. At present there are about eight proprietors and some of them are Lakshmanaswamy Garu, Pulavartyvaru, Alluru Suryanarayana Raja Garu, Meda Nageswaram Garu, etc. Their property is split up now.



Even prior to 1864, when no anicut was in existence, there was wet cultivation in our village. There were canals even then. When the anicut was constructed it was agreed to that water would be supplied freely. A Government Order was passed to that effect. In order to be beneficial to the ryots in wet lands were given to the ryots only. Enquiries were conducted since 1870. The zamindars have been levying water-cess. Pattas and muchilikas were executed. The water-cess was being paid even at the rate of Rs. 5-12-0.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : Till now there is no practice of paying any cess. We have dry wet lands in our village, but not wet, i.e., our lands are watered by wells. They are levying Rs. 5-12-0, now, as if it were ordinary wet. You are requested to settle and decide the question of localization.

Statistics were taken. A Deputy Collector has been appointed to enquire into the affairs. He prepared a list with all particulars and classified the land as wet, dry and dry wet. His report has forbidden the levy of water-rates. Later on the Government required a selection of dry lands for conversion into wet. Before localization took place, the zamindar never levied water-rates. This is called localization by identification and selection system. That authority is vested with the zamindars. They began selecting and the levy of water-rates. Suits were filed accusing such action to be unjust. The High Court decreed that the zamindar has no right of levying the water-cess and that the ryot has the inherent right over water which should be denied even to the zamindars. It was also decreed that the water-rate should not be levied in inam lands. It can be levied on ordinary wet lands. My contention is that you should deprive the zamindars and estate-holders of the power of localization by identification and selection. I am presenting documents in favour of that. The ryots are enjoying the water right since long. It is specifically stated. I am submitting those muchilikas wherein is stated that no water-cess can be levied.

Under the pretext of having made the settlement, a separate water-rate is now being levied. They can collect this under the pseudonym of ordinary wet land. In one village they have excluded four or five hundred acres. On these only the zamindar were given the right of levying the cess.

The zamindar does not possess this right. The Government generally surveys and according to experience (practice) levies the cess. The zamindars are ever devoid of this power. According to the decision of 1906 the Government possess the proprietary right. Finally the same was stated in No. " 39 Madras " of 1913.

I am presenting a report on the localization of 1875. Pandita Nageswara Rao Garu submitted a report subsequently. The first report was submitted in 1875 by Subba Rao Garu. This the High Court upheld in their Madras No. 39. It may be referred to.

The villagers possess the right of determining the nature of the lands, i.e., whether they are ordinary wet or not. I am filing the High Court decree in S.A. No. 1452 of 1923, and another judgment also.

Owing to this selection, every village has to pay an enhanced rate to the extent of Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000 more than the usual payment.

The zamindars bought 226 acres in Gondi village. The remaining 180 acres were bought for Rs. 1,450.

The increase in the rate is Rs. 2,000 in Nempalli, Rs. 1,500 in Kulagudipadu and more than Rs. 1,800 in Chinchinadu. In the last one previously Rs. 1,598 were paid : but now it is Rs. 3,524. The increase in Rayapadu since 1929, is Rs. 2,000.

On Chinchinada permanent rights were bestowed and consolidated rent was levied including in it all rents. Muchilikas were executed in 1835. It was decided that the same amount should be collected and that no water-rate should be levied.

Lands were surveyed in 1888 and it was said that the tax should be increased as the extent increase. It was decided in 1888 that that the increase of tax should be deferred. Between 1929-1933 it was taken to the High Court in three batches. It was decided that only consolidated rent could be collected and that no more increase in taxes should be allowed. Sixty rent suits were filed in 1888 for increasing the tax. It was reasserted that no taxes could be collected contrary to the decision of the High Court which was already made.

No settlement was made. The zamindars try to have the settlement done and thereby raise the tax. According to the survey and record of rights, the settlement officer cannot raise the taxes. I am filing the petition of objection and order thereon about such raising of taxes by the Settlement Officer.



At present the rates increased threefolds. Even while making the settlement, it was completed in section 108 but the Revenue Board did not confirm it completely, saying that things were done without appealing to the Board for sanction. We shall file an appeal to the Revenue Board.

The settlement must take place according to well-established principles. The rates should not be enhanced. The settlement rules passed by the Government should be modified.

"Fair and equitable rent" does not mean the continuance of the present rates. This item should be reconsidered and the old rates should be taken into account and thus the tax must be finally determined.

Private auction should be completely removed. Auction should be carried on only after due legal procedure (filing suits). Suits should not be filed for three years combined. The limit should be one year only.

"Fair and equitable rent" means that the collection should not be more than the amount collected in Government lands. There should be no generalization.

All settlement should be conducted by the Government. Now it is being done as it pleases the zamindars. All rules pertaining to the Government lands should be followed in the zamindari lands.

He then read a torn document, dated 24th June 1833, granted by the East India Company to the proprietors of Ellamanchili, a patta giving them permission to collect the rents from the ryots and not imposing any extra rent. This patta shows that the zamindar is only an ijardar and that he is no proprietor of the soil.

Such is the village tenure. The contents of the patta as far as it was legible ran thus :—

"Patta written in favour of Digumanu gumasthas (clerks), Ramachandra Garu and Chinchinadu Ramaraju Garu by the Company Sircar (authorities of the East India Company).

"From this day onwards, at the rate of Rs. 400 per year, Rs. 2,000 for four years has been settled by the Government as the amount to be paid. Excluding banjaru (waste land . . . wet lands, dumbase inams and pettubadi inams (perhaps they are service inams) for the remaining jirayati (cultivated lands) and wet lands . . . at that rate, as is usual . . . for the villages Ambaru (perhaps manure) should be put and the land should be well cultivated taking care that the ryot is not inconvenienced, or put to difficulties and that his interests are well guarded . . ."

The High Court decided that the ryot is the proprietor of the soil Nos. 26, Madras. 20 Madras, 299, and 21 Madras.

There are permanent pattas when they are given again, the taxes were raised. Filed a document. When suits were filed during settlement saying that the taxes are excessive or very high, the excess taxes were cancelled. Document filed.

The village sites should not be converted and a favourable rent should be levied. It must be decided that it is enough to pay the jirayati tax. Filed documents stating that no water cess can be levied.

Witness No. 137.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mrs. Vommi Seethamma, Vengalapudi, Rajahmundry taluk.

Vangalapudi village belongs to the Vadrevu Zamindar. I possess 9 acres of land—six acres in the name of my son and three in the name of my grandson, who is a minor. Three months back the zamindar has appropriated our lands. We paid all the taxes. We were paying Rs. 60 as tax, Rs. 20 for the minor pollams (lands) and Rs. 40 for the lands of my son. Some arrears are remaining just as in the case of all others. Those lands are owned by us since forty years. We leased out on share system for Rs. 30. I don't know the cause for dispossessing us of our land. We were not served with notice prior to that. We are deprived of our land without being informed. The lease holder went to Rangoon, two years back. The village munsif informed us that our lands were auctioned. Of this we remained untold till then. We do not have any other source of living. Our arrears amount to Rs. 12 only and we were quite prepared to pay that amount. The karnam said that he should not accept the payment of the amount as our lands were already auctioned. I am in a helpless



state as my son was seriously ill and bedridden and my grandson is a minor. That is why I have come here instead of sending either of them. We are starving. Nobody has come to our rescue. Our land is given to our neighbour. When his heaps are placed in our land, I objected in vain. I beg of you to come to my rescue.

She filed a petition.

Witness No. 138.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mrs. Gangamma of Jaggannapeta, Gopalapuram estate,  
East Godavari district.

Ours is a mokhasa village. I possess 68 acres of land, all dry. The tax was 8 annas or 10 annas at the most. Now it has gone up to Rs. 2. I have got cattle. They are not permitted to go into the waste and common land. Nor are they permitted to drink water. The mokhasadar is troubling us in all possible ways. He has got a grudge on us. We are asked (by him) to leave our lands. How can we do so? We answered that we don't have any other way of living and hence the impossibility of obeying him in that respect. We were asked to quit last year itself. Last year, we cultivated half of the lands, but we were deprived of the produce which was given to Ramaswami Garu, Venkayya Garu and Lakshmayya Garu.

Our cattle are forbidden from entering all fields: much less to the water tank. When we told that we are forced to migrate to another village, they welcomed that idea. Where can we go? We are squeezed in every way. I possess 26 cattle and 400 goats. Most of them died for want of food and drink. We are not helped by any body. We are suffering untold misery.

She filed a petition.

Witness No. 139.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mirza Ali Nakki Sahib, son of Aga Jan Sahib, aged 65 years, cultivator, Dasaripadu, hamlet of Venkatayapalem, Vegayammampeta estate, Ramachandrapur taluk.

I have got a wet land of 3 acres and 33 cents in the estate. I am paying a tax of Rs. 91 excluding Government taxes, since ten or twelve years. We bought the land from Kapu cultivators. It is not yielding much. If at all there is any yield, it will not be more than seven or eight kavillu per acre; of that, four kunchams are from dry land. It is quite useless. The maximum yield will be two candies, costing Rs. 50 at present. Hitherto it was somewhat less. We are paying the taxes unnecessarily, as we incur some loss by that. We request that the taxes may be reduced to the level of the Government rates. The Government jirayati lands are better than that of ours and the yield is decidedly greater. But they pay Rs. 9 only. We are cultivating our lands. The yield of the land cultivated by us is about eight candies. I cannot give details as for fixing the taxes. (Presents a petition.)

When they were about to auction our land for arrears, I paid Rs. 100 and obtained a receipt. We paid off the four kists of faslis 1345 and 1346. Receipts are filed. On their threatening that the lands will be auctioned in fasli 1346, I again paid Rs. 100. It was auctioned in fasli 1347 and he himself bought it. We promised to pay money and asked them to cancel the auction. But we were not complied with. When we asked that the Rs. 19 that are due from the estate regarding the yield (phalasayam) may be adjusted towards the money we owe, they refused to do so saying that they received no orders to that effect. When we enquired after they have received the orders, we were informed that we have to pay Rs. 20 more. We expressed our inability to pay. The land is still in our possession.

Answering questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said: As is already mentioned, I have 3 acres 3 cents of wet land. I am cultivating it myself. I don't give for cowle. My land is partly ordinary wet and partly dry wet.



Questioned by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig : Yes, our asking them to cancel the auction, they demanded Rs. 20 but we did not petition the Deputy Collector for that.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju : Yes, Sir, we did not submit a petition to the District Collector because we did not know that we should do so. We never indulged in such affairs. (The Chairman advised them to write to zamindar of all this even now.)

Witness No. 140.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sunkavilli Chinna Venkanna, son of Subbayya, aged 45 years, cultivator, Gopavaram Agraharam, Kovvur taluk.

On being questioned by the Chairman : This agraharam belongs to some Vaishnavas named Appalacharyulu and Chiranjivi. I have got 12 acres of dry land. I pay Rs. 20 to Rs. 22. We cultivate javery, redgrams and red paddy. Tobacco does not grow. I request that the present rate of high taxes may be reduced and brought to the level of jirayati rate. Near our village we have got jirayati lands, in Nidadavole, belonging to Government. There the rate is only Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. We request that we also may be permitted to pay the same rate. The maximum yield for our lands will be half a candy of javery and one-fourth candy of redgrams. By selling that yield we got about Rs. 20. Nothing remains for us. We are asked to pay heavy taxes. If we don't pay we will be asked to leave the lands. Just to keep the lands in our possession we have been paying the heavy taxes.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : Yes, Sir. Vadapalli village is near ours. I don't know the rate of taxation by the Government in that place.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : Our village is not surveyed. We are only paying what they demanded. I am cultivating the land since twenty years and I am paying the same rate since six years. Before that the land was not cultivated by me. I was paying Rs. 18.

Witness No. 141.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gada Ammanna, son of Veerayya, aged 40 years, cultivator, Chinnayagudem, Errampeta estate, Kovvur taluk.

Questioned by the Chairman : The estate belongs to Tadepalli Chiranjeeva Rao Garu, who is in Yadavolu. My share is 100 acres only. In dry land we cultivate chode and gante. The rate is Re. 1 and more. The total tax for our patta is more than Rs. 184. Before that my father wrote the cowle in 1889 for the same piece of land (i.e., 104 acres when it was not surveyed). When it was surveyed it became 197 acres and 39 cents. There is a share for the Nallacheruvu satram in that estate. They all combined and had it surveyed. Then it was managed by the Collector. Subsequent to that also we were paying tree rates and other rates. Our patta has cowles. The boundaries are stated. (Documents filed.) There are no pattas now.

Answering questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said : The taxes are doubled. Devarapalle and other villages are very near our place. Then the rate is between 4 annas and 8 annas. It will be good to reduce the rates in our village also to that level. In Devarapalli it is only As. 7-6 per acre. In the same number some land is irrigated by tank. We draw water ourselves. The tank was constructed by my father at his own expense. It was not surveyed. It was divided and claimed to be theirs. They are not repairing it. They are collecting taxes as usual. We have served four registered notices to the zamindars. But they did not answer. This year the crop died for want of water. The bunds are in bad condition. It is only forty or fifty years back that my father repaired them. Subsequent to that no repairs were conducted. We have no arrears to be paid.

Q.—Do you plant orange gardens? A.—Those gardens are being planted in Devarapalle also. The Devarapalle lands are decidedly better than our lands. We are cultivating our own lands.

Q.—Don't you cultivate tobacco? A.—Even the worst lands yield tobacco if sufficiently manured. Unless we dig wells at a heavy cost, the gardens will not yield. Unless we manure thrice it will not yield anything. We cannot get water unless we dig very deep. Our zamindars have constructed some boring pipes at a cost of Rs. 3,000. We are six



brothers. We pour water with an engine. There is no ryots' association in our village. We cannot get water unless we dig for about 40 feet. But the water is good. Even after digging so deep a well, we cannot get sufficient water unless 100 feet more will be bored with a pipe. All constructions and water facilities are undertaken by the ryots only.

(Files a petition regarding Kannayagudem.)

Witness No. 143.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Guduri Ayyanna, son of Lakshmayya, aged 40 years, cultivator, Lakkavaram village, Lakkavaram estate, Kovvur taluk.

Questioned by the Chairman: The proprietor of our land is Mantripragada Bhujanga Rao. We have got lands in Ammapalem. The rate for wet is Rs. 6 and for dry is Re. 1. For other ryots the rate ranges from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 for dry and from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10 for wet land. It must be reduced. Wet should be levied Rs. 4 only and the rate for dry should be never more than Re. 1. It is my opinion.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much land you have for which the rate is Rs. 10? A.—Of these 100 acres, only for 10 acres we pay Rs. 10 per acre. Of the 3,000 acres, for 500 or 600 acres the rate will be Rs. 3 per acre. The Lakkavaram village ryots convened a meeting and selected me to represent them here. The source of water-supply for them is the Yerrakaluva (Red canal). Water flows in it at all times. The bunds of that canal breach and the fields are ruined. It was repaired 20 years back.

Witness No. 144.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kruttiventi Venkateswara Rao, son of Venkatakrishnayya, aged 25 years, cultivator, Peddagollapalem (Kruttivenu estate, belonging to Mr. K. Nageswara Rao Pantulu).

Questioned by the Chairman: Waste lands were generally near the sea. An account of them is taken and they are given to the inhabitants of other villages as nazrana. They planted some casuarina gardens. The other waste lands are sandy and uncultivable. There will be a slight growth of grass when it rains. There is no communal poramboke. In Nidamaru there is a tank of 75 acres and 200 acres are irrigated by it. It was ruined by the 1925 hurricane. Afterwards it was not repaired. The late zamindar was paying one-fourth the cost of the repairs. The present zamindar never gave his share of the repairs. He has separated 25 acres for their own cultivation. But nothing is done till now. This year there is no yield as rainfall is the only source of water. Remission has been applied for, but in vain. Fearing that the Debt Relief Act will come into force, they forcibly collected arrears and all taxes. It should not be allowed. (Filed the correspondence between the ryots and the zamindar.) When the sea overflow due to a storm, a stream was filled. When the fishermen were fishing the zamindar demanded a share, because they were fishing in their waste land belonging to the zamindar. The ryots questioned the zamindar's right to share and denied it to him. Then section 144 was enforced and the reserve police was brought. Thus all the fish was taken away. At that time Nageswara Rao Pantulu Garu was in jail. After he was released, he gave back our right of fishing. But now the manager is forcing us to pay a share again. We have not yet reported of this to Nageswara Rao Garu.

Witness No. 145.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Bandaru Brahmaraju, son of Subbaraju, aged 35 years, cultivator, Penugudur, Pithapur estate.

Questioned by the Chairman: I have lands in Gollaprolu, Thotapalli, Pithapuram estates. For the lands in Pithapuram Estate I am paying Rs. 12 per acre. I have got wet and dry wet also for which I am paying about Rs. 10. In it there is sandy soil to some extent. The rate is very high. There is no yield. Only salt can be got. There is a Government Salt Factory also. It is not profitable even if the rate is Rs. 4 for wet land. In Penugudur, I have got a salt land. In 1879, for patta No. 33, Rs. 4 were paid. Now the rate



is Rs. 102. Papers concerning that are filed. It was surveyed in 1913. The rate was enhanced after the survey. Nadakuduru village is on the boundary of Penuguduru. In 1913 the rights were recorded. The Government ordered that there should be no water-cess for ordinary wet land. But the zamindar is collecting the water-cess since 1923. This sort of collection should be expressly prohibited. What difference does it make in the case of wet land whether it is in Government area or zamindari area? (Papers filed.) Some of the common lands, tanks, pools, puntas, and gayaru parras (waste lands) have been given away. It would have been used as pasture for the cattle to graze. It is being cultivated by the Diwan. Lands in different places, 23 acres in one place, 3 acres and one more acre in another place are levied Re. 1 per acre, though the rights were recorded which shows all particulars about lands. There are common lands but no communal poramboke. In fasli 1341, the zamindar ordered that no land should be given for amarakam in the Nadakuduru village. But afterwards all those lands were given for amarakam. In 1863, the tax income of the zamindari was Rs. 2,100-13-7. Verasi Rs. 7,784; in 1885 it was Rs. 2,600. The kattubadi was Rs. 2,400-3-4. It became Rs. 3,294 by 1913. The water-cess exceeded the usual payment by Rs. 900.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: The enhanced rate was paid after the survey was finished. Regarding the occupation of the common lands I beg to say that the Bhupathi cheruvu (tank) will be useful for grazing of the cattle. About the year 1922, it was put to sale in Penuguduru for Rs. 700 as No. 52 patta. The kudivaram right also was sold. It will be 78 cents. It was auctioned. I don't know whether the Collector was reported of that. Then I was but a boy going to school. We own some lands in Arusaka, Koduru villages of Thotapalli estate belonging to the Kirlampudi Zamindar. We were asked to pay increased rates in 1927, on pain of being driven out of our lands. Having no other go the ryots agreed to pay. The pleaders advised them not to pay the enhanced rates. Then a suit was filed in the Peddapuram District Munsif's Court. It was decided in the Sub-Court in favour of the ryots. The High Court was appealed to. Even there the ryots gained ground. They appealed to the Privy Council. Suits were filed in the Deputy Collector's Court for arrears for fear of limitation. The ryots agreed to pay but protested that they could not pay so great an amount. They agreed to pay the arrears in small instalments. We were told that we have no forest rights. I refused to pay forest rates as forest rights were denied to us.

In 1912, Bibbilivaru required that Pratima Fund should be collected from the Meraka Mutha ryots (Mutha ryots of dry lands). The Tanedar was ordered that such a collection may be made after the enactment of the Estates Land Act. Threatening us that we have to leave our lands, they asked us to pay Re. 1-2-0 for Re. 1. Papers filed. The Pampanadi (Pampa river) must flow via Hamsavaram of the Pithapuram estate before it reaches Krishnapuram. The High Court decided that only after irrigating the ordinary wet lands of Hamsavaram, water can be allowed for the irrigation of Krishnapuram. The High Court decision must be obeyed by the estate authorities. But actually they are not doing like that. The ryots of Allamvari Mallavaram were asked to quit their lands on their refusal to irrigate as directed by the zamindar. The zamindar only must appoint somebody near the canal to supply water. As the water right is vested with the zamindar, the villagers cannot irrigate by themselves. It is the business of the zamindar to supply water. The Dewan laid a casuarina garden in Ramanakkapeta, Sivarumummidivarappadu. Officers were appointed for assessment. Unawares he auctioned under items 2 and 3. The Dewan was requested to save. But he said that he could not give the whole but only a part of it. It is patta No. 40. He is my own maternal uncle. I have got lands adjacent to theirs. For speaking loudly, the house itself was auctioned. Filing records concerning it. There are fifty houses in that hamlet. Being unable to pay, they could not pay the house taxes. For that their cattle were attached. I am filing all records concerning the encroachments of the Dewan.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—It is mentioned that 26 acres are salt waste poramboke. But is there anywhere what is known as the village common land? A.—I don't know that. That can be verified from the register of the village karnam.

Questioned by RAJA he said: Yes, Sir. There is wet ayacut under the canal, in Penuguduru. All the land is under the canal.

Q.—Is there a ryots' association in your village? Are you a member? A.—No. I am not a member of any association.

Q.—Then how could you come to know of all this. Did you enquire in order to know? A.—I have lands in that village and in the neighbouring villages also. The villagers generally give me every information of their welfare. We are some of the ryots that came to terms.



Q.—Did you not work as an agent on behalf of the ryots? A.—I was only one during those that worked for them. We have got 60 acres of land in Ramanakkapeta. I am paying a tax of Rs. 70. The land gives no yield. I planted casuarina in it. Some of the plants died. In Penuguduru, we have lands worth Rs. 25, and Rs. 20. We have got lands worth Rs. 100, and Rs. 500 also.

Witness No. 146.

Rajahmundry.

22nd January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Veedhi Ramayya, son of Subbarayudu, cultivator, Veedhivari Lanka, Kapileswarapuram estate.

We have cultivated lands paying a kist ranging from Rs. 400 to Rs. 600. They have filed a suit for two years' dues. For that land security deeds were taken. They demanding immediate payment now. (Papers filed.) They are in dry wet. The kist is Rs. 20. Hitherto the dubba pay is being given. Now they are not allowing the cattle in. They are levying fines. We are requesting for the reduction of the tax. I have got 10 acres of jirayati (cultivated) land. The kist for that is Rs. 10. For the Government lands it is only Rs. 4. I request that the former also may be reduced to Rs. 4.

Witness No. 149.

Trichinopoly.

6th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. P. Saravana Pillai, aged 43, son of Mr. Pazhamalai Pillai, Angarayanallur village, Udayarpalaiyam zamindari, President of the Zamindari Ryots' Association.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Of the Ryots' Association of which place are you the President?

A.—I am the President of the Udayarpalaiyam Ryots' Association.

Q.—Which estate?

A.—Udayarpalaiyam zamindari.

Q.—Are you a tenant in that estate?

A.—I am a ryot.

Q.—Have you submitted a memorandum?

A.—I have submitted a memorandum in English and in Tamil.

Q.—Tell us about the state of affairs in your estate?

A.—The hardship experienced by us is indescribable. The Udayarpalaiyam zamindari should be abolished now.

Q.—Why?

A.—The zamindar was granted a sanad in 1817. (Witness handed over the sanad to the Chairman.) In the sanad, the income is shown as 27,000 odd and the peshkash as 600 odd—'contract between the ryots and the zamindar.' The zamindar has been enhancing the rent gradually. It is only the money collected from the tenants that has been enhanced. The Collector submitted a report to the Board of Directors in 1856.

Witness files the English copy of the Collector's report. The assessment was enhanced in 1856. Thereafter beriz was fixed by the Government in 1875. The beriz at that time was 63,000.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram in English and translated by Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai—

Q.—Can you say what is the extent of the land under cultivation?

A.—I cannot say. The accounts are with the zamindar.

Q.—Do you know anything?

A.—I made a search. I could not find the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the beriz now?

A.—Nearly three lakhs.

Q.—What is the complaint in this zamindari?

A.—The peshkash remains at the same level. It is stated in the sanad that the people should be cared for. Not even a pie from the income of the estate is spent in the interest of the people. In 1879, there were numerous forests. There were waste lands and lands fit for cultivation.



Q.—What were the rates?

A.—The zamindar has been enhancing the rates. The rates are enhanced when we are not wary.

Q.—Can you say with reference to the assessment whether a land is wet or dry?

A.—I have prepared a statement of these rates. It contains particulars of the rates of assessment which are in force in Udayarpalaiyam at present. ('Witness reads out.')

Q.—What are the rates on *pannai* lands?

A.—There is no change in the rates. The lands have been classified into three kinds, namely, (1) cowle lands, (2) *purakkudi* lands and (3) *utkudi* lands. The assessment on cowle lands is low. It is moderate on *purakkudi* lands and high on *utkudi* lands. The rate of assessment on one kani of cowle land is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Horsegram	1	12	11
Varagu	2	11	9
Kambu	3	9	9
Paddy	4	7	9
Chillies	5	5	9
Tobacco	7	2	8

The rate of assessment on *purakkudi* land is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Horsegram	2	6	6
Varagu	3	9	9
Kambu	4	12	2
Paddy	5	15	5
Chillies	7	2	8
Tobacco	9	8	3

The rate of assessment on *utkudi* land is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Horsegram	3	2	9
Varagu	4	12	2
Kambu	6	5	6
Paddy	7	14	11
Chillies	9	8	3
Tobacco	12	11	0

The rate for groundnut is the same as the rate for kambu. I have forgotten what the rates are for plantain and sugarcane. It is a long time since I wrote accounts.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Should not you, who are the President of the Association maintain accounts?

A.—It was only recently that I was made the President. In 1932, I was the Secretary.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You must know these things well?

A.—I was arrested on the ground that I acquaint the people of the zamindari through the Association of matters of which they have no knowledge and make speeches asking them to be careful and a case was launched against me. The case was quashed in the High Court. Water-cess has been levied at Kalumangalam, and Udayarpalaiyam. I shall give you a list, you may see for yourself.

By the Zamindar of Mirzapuram and translated into Tamil by Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai—

Q.—Is the cultivation carried on only with the help of rain water?

A.—Only with rain water. In some places, water will not ooze even if one digs to a depth of 100 feet.

Q.—Is there any tank?

A.—There is a tank. There are tanks in some places. There are no tanks in some other places.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Have sluices been provided?

A.—The zamindar has not provided any.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Has not the zamindar constructed kanmois?

A.—He has constructed kanmois for his own lands.



Q.—Has he not done anything in villages in which there are tenants?

A.—He has not done anything. He seems to have done something fifty years ago. For the last fifty years, he has not provided the tenants with kanmois or any other facility. The tenants themselves make arrangements for the provision of the necessary facilities.

Q.—Is that the custom in the village?

A.—It is only the tenants that do so. Are they to die?

Q.—Why should they not petition the Collector for the construction of kanmois?

A.—The people are not educated. They are not acquainted with affairs. I am the only educated person. Look at the people. 'He points out to the people of his zamindari.'

Q.—You have stated in the memorandum that the zamindar is buying lands in the Tanjore district. What is that point?

A.—That is true. He spends his income in other ways. He buys lands for his younger brother and others.

Q.—Do you say that he does not spend money in the interests of the tenants?

A.—He spends money for his private affairs and for the sake of his relations. 'Witness files the adangal chitta of Angarayanallur village of Udayarpalaiyam zamindari.'

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What was the beriz in 1890?

A.—Rs. 1,063.

Q.—What was the extent?

A.—Two hundred and sixty-three kanis. 'Witness files another chitta of Angarayanallur.'

Q.—What was the beriz in 1902?

A.—Rs. 1,372.

Q.—What is the extent of the village?

A.—Three hundred and forty-eight and odd kanis.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the beriz now?

A.—Nearly Rs. 3,000.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—What is the extent now?

A.—I do not know.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the reason that you give?

A.—I shall show that he is increasing it every year. 'Witness files three pattas for faslis 1311, 1314 and 1335.'

Witness: The patta is in the name of Chidambaram Pillai, the elder brother of my father. In fasli 1311, the assessment was Rs. 116. In 1314, it was Rs. 180. In fasli 1335, it was Rs. 280. In fasli 1311, the extent was 25 kanis. In 1314, it was 48 kanis. In fasli 1335, it was 69 kanis.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the point?

A.—Before fasli 1318, there was no assessment on waste lands. After that fasli, assessment was levied on waste lands. The total amount of assessment increased because waste lands were assessed.

Q.—Was there no assessment on waste lands before that? Has the total assessment increased now because assessment is paid on these lands?

A.—Yes.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Were waste lands under patta before fasli 1318?

A.—No. They were in the possession of the ryots.

Q.—How did the zamindar begin to include them in the patta?

A.—He himself included waste lands in the patta. Thus there was an increase.

(Witness files another cadjan leaf patta.) Patta granted in 1874, fasli 1256, for 3½ kanis in the name of Muthu Nayakar of Vanathiraiyanpattanam, Rs. 5-10-0. When assessment was levied in this place in respect of the patta granted in 1874, it was levied cropwar. I do not know at what rate it was levied. After 1850, the assessment was not levied kudiwar or cropwar. The assessment, however, was enhanced.

The assessment for paddy in respect of 5/32 kani of land was 4½ annas. The rate for kani was Rs. 1-12-0. This was in 1874, fasli 1256, cowle rate and not kudivaram rate was in force at that time. The rates obtaining then work out at Rs. 4-8-0 now. Now, the lowest rate that has to be paid in respect of paddy is Rs. 4-8-0.



These rates are in respect of Vanathiraiyanpattanam according to adangal 298. Now, the lowest rate of assessment is Rs. 4-8-0 and the highest rate is Rs. 8. I have filed the adangal. There is no *utkudi* rate there. There is no *utkudi* rate whatever in these two chittas. At present, 200 kanis of land in this village are under *utkudi* assessment. The assessment on land has not been fixed with reference to its value. The zamindar has never come to the village. We cannot remove trees or green manure from the forest. My father has stated as follows:— He is unable to come. He is in bed. He said: 'There were bumper crops. We realized a good income. We paid the assessment without any difficulty.' But we are experiencing hardship now. The assessment has been gradually enhanced. We are now in a fix. There are no forests. The zamindar has destroyed the forests and sold the firewood. After selling the forest, he asks us to receive pattas in respect of the bare land. After destroying the forest and selling the firewood, he has converted it into a patta land.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What about water facilities?

A.—Only rain. God will give it.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What was the former extent of the forest land in respect of which patta was granted?

A.—There are now 800 acres.

Q.—Have pattas been granted in respect of 800 acres?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the place?

A.—Angarayanallur. I have filed the accounts. According to them, pattas have been granted in respect of all the lands.

Q.—I suppose you have the accounts?

A.—I have no accounts.

Q.—Then how do you say all this?

A.—I say this from my knowledge. I know this for nearly 30 years.

Q.—What is your age?

A.—Forty-three. I remember that there was a forest when I was 13 years old.

Q.—How many years ago were the pattas granted?

A.—They were granted from time to time. Pattas in respect of the entire land were granted within about ten years. One has now to go to Kumbakonam for obtaining twigs for cleaning the teeth.

Q.—Has he granted any patta to you?

A.—He has granted a patta.

Q.—What is the rate for it?

A.—Kudiwaram rate.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—I suppose there is no dispute about the rate?

A.—Nothing whatever.

Q.—Is it a share that the zamindar receives?

A.—Not a share, but double the gross income.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are you prepared to give one half of the gross income?

A.—The cultivation expenses will come to three-fourths of the gross income. I shall file the orders given by the zamindar. I shall file three darkhast assignment deeds, dated 25th March 1919. When a darkhast land is assigned, it is assessed at the *utkudi* rate. There was no *utkudi* rate. It has come into existence suddenly in our village. There was no survey at that time. There was no survey measurement. There has been no Government survey till now.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Has he fixed boundaries?

A.—There are no boundaries. Lands are measured every year. It will be one kani this year. It will be one kani and a quarter next year. If articles are not supplied to the karnam, it will increase. I say this because I was a karnam. The karnam comes from the zamindar's office. The zamindar asks him to measure the land. He measures according to orders and writes accounts. The zamindar asked us to develop a forest. We said that we would give our lands if compensation was paid to us. He filed a damage suit against the poor tenants.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What was the result of the suit?

A.—It was dismissed in the lower Court. The Court found that the land belonged to the ryots and decided the case accordingly.



Q.—What happened to the land?

A.—It is in the possession of the ryot. ('Files the judgment.') The zamindar destroyed the forest and filed a suit against us in 1916. The irrigation tank which belongs to us—the tank which is in the Chinnagramam—has been in our possession for 100 years. He assigned all the bed of the tank to the tenant with a view to causing loss to us. He assigned it to our enemy. We prevented him from doing so. He subsequently began to harass us and filed a suit against us.

Q.—What was the result of the suit?

A.—It was decided in our favour in the first court.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How was it decided in the Appellate Court?

A.—It was decided that the zamindar had the right to assign.

Q.—Where is the appeal judgment, the High Court judgment? Bring it.

A.—It is with the zamindar. There were trees in the tank. We felled those trees. He unnecessarily filed a suit for damages for Rs. 3,000 odd. 'Files the copy of the plaint.'

Q.—What was the result?

A.—We contended that the trees belonged to us. He came to a compromise at last. ('Witness files the compromise order:') We came to the compromise that the right to the tank was his and the right to the water was ours.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What was the judgment of the High Court?

A.—The High Court held that the assignment was valid and that the zamindar had a right to do so. It stated that he had not assigned the entire tank and that he had assigned only a small portion of it. The assessment has increased because the land was measured every year and assessed at the *utkudi* rate. There was no assessment before fasli 1318. Thereafter, waste assessment was levied. The assessment at that time was 50 per cent less than the present cowle rate which is supposed to be very low. After some time kudiwar rate began to be levied.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the amount of the peshkash paid?

A.—Rs. 600 odd. The income is 3 lakhs of rupees. We do not ask that facilities should be afforded to us. It will be a great advantage if we are not harassed. ('Witness files another series of pattas.') Azhagu Padayachi, son of Appavu Padayachi of Devamanagalam, 1881. Neither kudiwar assessment nor cropwar assessment is mentioned in that patta. It mentions only the number of the patta, the number of kanis and the amount of assessment. The same is the case with the patta granted in 1882. There is no mention of kudiwar or cropwar assessment. The same is the case with the pattas granted in 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887. In 1887, the Collector of the Court of Wards granted a patta. The same was the case with the patta granted in 1888. There is a change in the patta granted in 1889. Kudiwar and cropwar assessments had come into force. They were enhanced in 1889. It is only the rate which obtained in 1889, that is in force now. There is no change whatever. There is no change in the kudiwar assessment.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What is the loss that has resulted from the change over to the cropwar and kudiwar assessments?

A.—The hardship consists only in the enhancement of the rate. There was no *utkudi* assessment in 1907. It suddenly came into existence in 1908. ('Witness files another patta.') The patta of the same Azhagu Padayachi, 1/32 of a kani of land bearing patta No. 268 was assessed at the *utkudi* rate. It increased to 3/16th of a kani. In 1929, the land was again surveyed privately by the zamindar. He granted pattas in which were included even channels, etc. I submitted a petition. As I protested loudly and took much trouble in this connexion, the zamindar subsequently excluded these from the pattas. He took them back after paying money. There is no copy of the survey account. A copy is not given. A fee of Rs. 4 was received by the zamindar for measuring and demarcating the land. The result was that the mountain in labour brought forth a mouse. This is our fate. I was telling you about the rate at which the assessment was being enhanced. I must now refer to the manner in which the zamindar makes collections.

In regard to collection, the zamindar appoints a monigar. An order issued by the Revenue Board in 1912 lays down that no amount whatever should be collected from the ryots towards the payment of the salary of village officers. The neighbouring zamindars barring the Zamindar of Udayarpalayam have abolished such a levy. Our zamindar has not abolished it under the impression that this Government Order will not affect him in any way.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Is this going on even now?

A.—He is collecting money contrary to the Government Order. He is collecting in 1938.



Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Did you say that you would not pay?

A.—We said so.

Q.—Have you preferred a complaint?

A.—There is no use of doing so.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Have you got ryotwari lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rate on ryotwari lands?

A.—Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. In Udayarpalayam estate it is Rs. 8.

Q.—Are you satisfied if Government rate is adopted?

A.—I will accept. The same facilities should be given. The Government confer the necessary benefits on the ryots. No benefit whatever is conferred on us. It is enough if the same treatment is meted out to us as is meted out by the Government to their ryots. We should not be entrusted to the care of the zamindar.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the advantage in being under the Government?

A.—If the rains fail and if there is famine, they grant remission. They will sanction Rs. 10,000 for repairing tanks in times of famine. By granting remission they enable the people to live. They grant loans at a low rate of interest and ask the people to provide themselves with oxen. Such a system does not at all exist in our zamindari. The Co-operative Banks grant loans. But the Co-operative Banks in the Udayarpalayam zamindari ask us not to come near them. The Government repair irrigation tanks every year. In our zamindari, however, the zamindar has allowed them to go to ruin.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is Udayarpalayam a manavari tract?

A.—Yes. If there is rain, the rain-water is used for irrigation. If there are 500 acres, the water that collects at the bottom will irrigate 4 acres.

Q.—Do you pay water-tax to the zamindar?

A.—The water-tax is included in the assessment we pay. We do not pay water-tax separately.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What are the irrigation sources?

A.—Only rain-water.

Q.—Have you any difficulties with regard to the collection of decree on account of arrears of rent?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What are those difficulties?

A.—The decrees are executed and warrants are issued.

Q.—Are arrests being made in execution of decrees?

A.—The association has received information that arrests were made recently.

Q.—You find difficulties in paying these dues?

A.—Yes. The monigar does not receive any salary for the collection work. The zamindar's agent pays to him a commission of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent out of the money collected from us. There are many payments which the monigar has to make to the zamindar. He has to supply the zamindar with sheep, fowls, firewood and pots at the time of Dipavali and Sankranthi.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : This is not the usual practice in the country.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—This is only a perquisite, I suppose?

A.—As the monigar gives these to the zamindar and as he collects the money from us and pays it to the zamindar, he takes the money from us.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How many sheep and fowls does a monigar give?

A.—Do I keep accounts for all that? It is usual for him to give.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How many sheep and fowls are supplied from your village?

A.—I have instructed the people not to give anything.

Q.—How do you know that the collection agent gives these to the zamindar?

A.—I was a karnam for 12 years. I am describing what actually took place. It happened actually.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What you say is like a story?

A.—Ponnuswami Padayachi is a ryot of Nallaram village having patta No. 26. The assessment he had to pay for fasli 1342 was Rs. 24-14-10. He paid the entire amount in a single instalment on 25th September 1934 to Doraiswami Padayachi, the monigar of that village. What did the monigar do as soon as he paid the amount? He gave a receipt



to the party, credited his account with one anna and misappropriated the balance. The land was brought to auction for the arrears of assessment. The party said that he had paid the amount to the monigar and produced the receipt. He was told that only one anna had been credited to his account, that the entire amount had not been paid and that the proceedings would be withdrawn only if he paid the entire amount. In spite of his earnest entreaties the zamindar refused to withdraw the proceedings. The assessment was about Rs. 24-12-0. They received Rs. 26 out of the *Madakku* tax (tax for second crop) of Rs. 32 and brought the land for auction for the realization of the balance. He again paid Rs. 8 in the Collector's office. If he pays an assessment of Rs. 50 for 3 kanis, what will be his fate? The monigar died. When the zamindar was asked about it, he asked the party to go to the monigar and get the money from him. The monigar has no proper powers. There is no legal authorization. If the monigar pays the amount to the zamindar without misappropriating it, the latter will admit that the amount has been paid. If not, it is only the ryot that should pay the amount. ('Witness files patta receipts.') It is only the Government that should survey our lands. These villages should be treated as Government villages and they should not be handed over to the zamindar. That indeed is the main demand.

Q.—What is the rate? Is it *purakkudi* or *utkudi* or cowle or *taram* rate?

A.—It depends upon the will and pleasure of the zamindar. It does not depend upon the nature of the soil. The assessment on land should be fixed.

Q.—How can good be done to the ryots without giving room for complaints?

A.—50 per cent of the assessment on land should be set apart for providing irrigation facilities and for affording facilities to the people.

Q.—Who should carry out repairs?

A.—The Government Irrigation Department should carry them out.

Q.—Will it be proper if the Government Irrigation Department carry out the repairs? You say that the zamindar does not carry them out. Who will suggest the agency?

A.—We will do it with the help of the Engineer.

Q.—Who should be the authority to decide?

A.—It should be a Government Official.

Q.—Is it usual to give *waram*?

A.—Never. Cash alone is paid.

Q.—Was it before or after 1908 that the cowle and *purakkudi* rates came into force?

A.—Before.

Q.—Do they enhance the rates after applying to the Collector or do they enhance it arbitrarily?

A.—They enhance it arbitrarily.

Q.—How long has the association been in existence?

A.—It was established in 1936.

Q.—Have you submitted a representation through the association stating that the assessment is enhanced without the sanction of the Collector?

A.—For lack of funds it was not possible to do so.

Q.—Is there any forest in the village?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they afford facilities for the grazing of sheep?

A.—No. If we remove twigs, action is taken against us under section 379. If the forest staff are so inclined, they will permit us to graze cattle in the forest.

Q.—What is the rate fixed?

A.—I do not know that. They will fix it arbitrarily. I do not know the details of the rate.

Q.—Can you remove the green manure required for wet lands?

A.—We are not permitted to do so.

Q.—What do they do? Do they pay any cess to the zamin and remove it?

A.—The land is spoiled.

Q.—It will of course be spoiled? Green manure is indeed necessary. Is it not?

A.—We certainly require it.

Q.—Is there no maidan on which sheep may graze? I suppose there is an unreserved forest. Do they permit cattle to graze there?

A.—We are not aware of the existence of any such facilities. There are no such facilities in our village. There may be such facilities in other villages.



Q.—Are there separate rates for oxen, sheep and a headload?

A.—They are keeping it confidential in the office. We have not been informed about it.

Q.—Do they prevent the construction of houses on patta lands in the village?

A.—No, houses are available for residence.

Q.—Where is one to construct a house?

A.—In one's own patta land.

Q.—Do they demand money if a person wants to construct a house?

A.—Yes. A sum of Rs. 700 has to be paid for one-eighth of a kani.

Q.—Do they demand assessment after the house is constructed?

A.—There is assessment. The amount has to be paid.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the total number of villages in Udayar-palayam?

A.—65 villages.

Q.—Who is the owner of the land?

A.—The tenant.

Q.—You said that tenures had been classified into several kinds. What about that?

A.—I have filed a record.

Q.—What was the assessment before that?

A.—It was not more than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per kani.

Q.—Was there cropwar assessment at that time?

A.—Cropwar assessment was brought into force in 1889.

Q.—Did they get agreements executed by the people when cropwar assessment was introduced?

A.—I cannot say what they did.

Q.—Did they levy assessment with reference to the taram of the land?

A.—There is no connexion between the assessment, the taram and the value of the land.

Q.—A block may be divided into three classes of tenure?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has utkudi been in force?

A.—It has been in force for nearly 40 years. Though cowle rate is in force in the surrounding areas, utkudi rate alone is levied.

Q.—Are any collections made when land is assigned?

A.—They demand what is known as 'kattakkarai'.

Q.—You said that there were three tarams in utkudi lands. Is the assessment levied with reference to the crop?

A.—We cannot know what the assessment is until a patta is given for a year.

Q.—You said something about the tank. Can the whole village be irrigated by the existing tank?

A.—Not even one hundredth of the village can be irrigated.

Q.—Have they classed the lands in the tank ayacut as wet?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Has the zamindar carried out repairs?

A.—Not to my knowledge. I may be 43 years old.

Q.—Why have you not petitioned the Collector and filed a suit?

A.—There is no money.

Q.—Did you not make any attempt?

A.—No attempt can be made under the present Act.

Q.—Can you not effect repairs to the zamindar's tank?

A.—We cannot. We should not. They prevent us from doing so. We have to do it surreptitiously.

Q.—Has there been any case of assault as between the tenants and the zamindar when repairs to the tank were undertaken?

Q.—What should be done in regard to the question of repairs to the tank in order to benefit the tenants?

A.—Repairs to tanks should be carried out through the agency of the Government.



Q.—Do you ask that repairs should be carried out?

A.—50 per cent of the income from land should be set apart for this purpose. 50 per cent of the amount collected in every village should be set apart.

Q.—What are your rights in regard to porambokes?

A.—Even though they levy water-rates for the cultivation of porambokes, they prevent the supply of water thereto.

Q.—Do you say that lands are assessed with reference to the crops? If no crops are raised, is assessment levied?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the assessment?

A.—They levy assessment on the ground that horsegram was grown.

Q.—Were criminal cases conducted in fasli 1318 with reference to the assessment on waste lands?

A.—It was contended that assessment on waste lands should be set aside. Cases were conducted with reference to the assessment on waste lands.

Q.—Are trees assessed?

A.—Patta lands are assessed and the trees thereon are also assessed.

Q.—Is there any protest with reference to this assessment?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you protested?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the tax for these trees?

A.—The tax for a tamarind tree is 10 annas. It is 3 annas for a mango tree;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  annas for a cashewnut tree and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  annas for a coconut tree.

Q.—If there is a tope of tamarind trees?

A.—The trees are counted.

Q.—Is there any difficulty as regards joint pattas?

A.—Yes. If a joint patta is to be divided, one has to go to the zamindar, fall at his feet and make obeisance to him. All except Saivites and Brahmans should make obeisance to him.

Q.—Is there any difficulty as regards the transfer of a joint patta?

A.—The transferors as well as the transferees should appear in person.

Q.—Is there any difficulty as regards a joint patta suit?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any advantage derived from a warrant?

A.—There should be no such thing as warrant. Distraint should be abolished.

Q.—Do they give you permits for collecting fire-wood in the forest? I suppose there is no difficulty as regards this.

A.—There is difficulty. We have no statutory right to demand a permit.

Q.—Will he give it if you ask for it?

A.—If we ask, he will give.

Q.—Can you not represent your grievances to the staff and have them redressed?

A.—The staff do not conduct themselves properly. What is the use of representing our grievances to them? It is only they that foment quarrels between the zamindar and the people.

Q.—But do you say that the tenants cannot meet the zamindar?

A.—They cannot.

Q.—Does not the zamindar come to the village in person?

A.—No. In his opinion only what his employee says is right. The Diwan is like a Post office.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you say that the manager has no power?

A.—No.

Q.—Has the zamindar power?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For doing everything himself?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You said that they collect a levy. How much do they collect?

A.— $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.



Q.—Have you filed a case with reference to this matter?

A.—The Lower Court held that it was wrong to demand a levy. In the High Court the case was decided in favour of the zamindar.

Q.—You said that no warrant should be issued in connexion with the collection of rent. Why?

A.—If the agent misappropriates the amount collected, it is only the ryot that should pay again.

Q.—Is the zamindar responsible for the collections made by the monigar?

A.—No. If the monigar misappropriates the money, it is only the ryot that should pay again.

Q.—Does the monigar, whoever he may be, enter upon his duties only after executing an agreement with the zamindar?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose there is no trouble as regards collection?

A.—If the monigar is friendly, the rent may be paid leisurely. If he is an enemy, he will distrain the cattle immediately. He does not serve any notice. He does not serve a demand notice or furnish an arrear list. If we ask for the restoration of the cattle, he will ask us to pay money.

Q.—What will happen if no demand notice is served?

A.—If the procedure laid down in the Act is not followed, we will be put to trouble. The money realized from the distraint of lands in respect of 10 pattas may be utilized towards the payment of assessment on lands in respect of several pattas. Grains, instruments and vessels are distrained. How can those who have no money for contesting a suit institute proceedings against the zamindar? That is why they do not do so.

Q.—Does the distraint of immovable property involve any hardship?

A.—Yes. If there is a sale, the expense increases. It has to be borne only by the poor tenants.

Q.—Have you secured remission in your villages?

A.—There has been no rain for the last ten years. We have been paying an assessment of Rs. 5. There is no remission of assessment.

Q.—Has there been any agitation as regards remission of assessment?

A.—There has been an agitation ever since 1930.

Q.—What happened?

A.—Security cases were launched.

Q.—What happened afterwards?

A.—They were quashed in the High Court.

Q.—Has there been an agitation in regard to assessment since 1932?

A.—Yes. There has been an agitation even from 1918.

Q.—You say that, if houses are constructed on lands, a levy is demanded. Why?

A.—It is only because of the poverty of the people. As the ryots had no place to live in, they took steps to construct houses, cattle-sheds, etc., for residential purposes and for penning cattle. The zamindar insisted that they should pay in respect of these houses the same assessment as on land. A suit was filed in the court in respect of this matter. A payment of Rs. 200 was insisted upon. The zamindar stated that he would come to a compromise if they paid that amount. He compounded the case after obtaining a muchalika to that effect.

Q.—If a house is constructed on a piece of land in which paddy is cultivated, why should not assessment be demanded in respect thereof?

A.—Our demand is that land tax should not be collected in respect of residential places.

Q.—Is any case now pending in the court between you and the zamindar in respect of assessment?

A.—No case is now pending in the court in respect of assessment.

Q.—Have you at any time instituted any proceedings in the court in regard to assessment?

A.—A case was conducted on the issue that an assessment of Rs. 40 should be paid. The suit was dismissed by the court on the ground that it was not maintainable. A case is now pending in the High Court in regard to this matter.



Q.—Is there any harassment in connexion with the collection of assessment?

A.—We are experiencing ever so many hardships in regard to the collection of assessment. The assessment is levied arbitrarily. If the people protest, police help is sought in the matter of the collection of the assessment. There is nobody to question the atrocities perpetrated by the zamindar.

Q.—If you give so much trouble in the matter of the payment of the assessment, how can the zamindars obtain money?

A.—Our demand is only that they should collect a reasonable assessment under the Act and that they should not collect the assessment by intimidating us with the aid of the police officials and others. (Police officers are used only as the collection agents of the zamindar.)

Q.—When did such a thing happen?

A.—In 1931 when Mr. S. Ranganatham was the Collector, a reserve police force came marching with much pomp playing the band, etc. This was a source of amusement to some persons. But it was a nuisance to many persons. Several persons fled from the village out of fear.

Q.—Was any levy demanded in connexion with this police force?

A.—I do not recollect that any levy was collected in this connexion.

Q.—Is there any decree for arrears of assessment?

A.—There are many decrees. Decrees are obtained for the realization of a kist of Rs. 5,000 every year. They obtain decrees as we are not in a position to pay the assessment.

Q.—Will not any benefit result from the present 'Debt Relief Bill'?

A.—The zamin tenants will not be benefited by this 'Debt Relief Bill.' If they pay the assessment for fasli 1347, they will be benefited. It is only once in ten years that there will be good rainfall. The tenants will derive some profit then. At other times, the tenants will indeed have to suffer much. As there were some heavy showers in 1937, the entire groundnut crop was damaged. The people will therefore find it difficult to pay the kist. While so, it is not known how this Bill will be beneficial to the zamin tenants.

Q.—What will you get if there is good rainfall?

A.—I may get an income of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per cawny.

Q.—What will be the cost of cultivation?

A.—The expenses will come to nearly Rs. 10.

Q.—What will be the assessment on land?

A.—It will vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10. If there is a good yield, the actual produce will be sufficient for the payment of the assessment to the zamindar.

Q.—What do the people do for their livelihood when there is no rain?

A.—They go to the surrounding villages and earn by working hard for paying the kist to the zamindar and for eking out their livelihood. Whether the tenants cultivate the lands or not and whether the land yields or not, the assessment will have to be paid to the zamindar.

Q.—Was there any survey or settlement?

A.—It is understood that the zamindar is going to conduct a private survey. Our zamindar does not know what a settlement is. I understand that some lands have been surveyed. Additional assessment has been levied in respect of lands which have been surveyed and found to be larger in extent and also in respect of lands which are smaller in extent. This indeed is the benefit which we have derived from this survey.

Q.—What is the price of the land?

A.—There is no settled price per cawny of land. The price varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 per cawny. The price of lands which are near residential places is greater. It will not be more than Rs. 500 per cawny.

Q.—In 1932, the zamindar instituted a security case against you? The case against you was that you carried on an agitation to the effect that the assessment should not be paid? Is that not so?

A.—We did not do so. I was arrested on the ground that we preached something against the zamindar when a case was going on in the District Munsif's Court of Ariyalur, in which the zamindar was the plaintiff and we were the defendants.



Q.—Was a case launched against you because you carried on a propaganda to the effect that the assessment should not be paid?

A.—We did not carry on any such propaganda. We merely carried on a propaganda to the effect that the assessment was high, that it should be reduced and that, if it was not reduced, it could not be paid. We merely carried on an agitation to the effect that the people felt that the assessment was high that they were suffering that a representation should be made to the Government in order that some sort of statutory settlement might be arrived at and that, if a suit was filed, it should be contested.

Q.—Do you see the zamindar in person?

A.—Yes. I might have spoken to the zamindar about ten years ago. I do not speak to him now for the tenants cannot see him easily. He does not come to the villages.

Q.—Were you working as a karnam ten years ago?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you removed from the post of karnam?

A.—Yes. They removed me from service in 1925.

Q.—Were you removed from service because you tampered with the records regarding the transfer of a patta?

A.—Yes. I was fined in that case.

Q.—Has this agitation been going on ever since you were removed from that post?

A.—This agitation has been going on even from fasli 1318. There has been such disturbance continuously.

Q.—Has there been enmity between your family and the zamindar ever since that time?

A.—The enmity is not personal. There has always been a struggle between the zamindar and the tenants with regard to this assessment. There is no enmity between our family and the zamindar. There is enmity between us and him in our capacity of ryots and zamindar respectively.

Q.—I suppose the assessment was not enhanced after the Estates Land Act was passed in 1908.

A.—He has of course enhanced the assessment.

Q.—Have you filed any case subsequent to 1908 in regard to the enhancement of the assessment by the zamindar?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long has the present rate of assessment been in force?

A.—I have already mentioned the date. The zamindar has enhanced the assessment.

Q.—I ask whether the zamindar has enhanced the assessment subsequent to 1908?

A.—He enhanced the assessment in respect of casuarina and cashewnut trees in 1930.

Q.—Have the people contended that the present assessment is excessive?

A.—The people have always been making such complaints.

Q.—Have they preferred a complaint to the Collector?

A.—We have submitted several petitions to the effect that the assessment has been enhanced now and that a uniform assessment should be levied.

Q.—Is not the entire zamin a dry tract?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You said that the zamindar had destroyed the forest and assigned it. Was it poramboke land or waste land or forest land?

A.—He has assigned the forest land.

Q.—Is it a dense forest?

A.—It was a dense forest 30 years ago.

Q.—When you were the zamin karnam did you recommend that pattas might be granted in respect of these forest lands?

A.—Yes. I made such a recommendation under the orders of the zamindar.

Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have nearly 100 kanis in the zamin area.

Q.—Do you give your lands for varam cultivation?

A.—I used to give it for varam cultivation and also for lease.

Q.—How much will you get?

A.—If there is a good yield, I will get half of the net produce after deducting the charges of cultivation.



Q.—What will be the cost of harvesting the crop on one kani?

A.—If the yield is 15 kalams, the cost of harvesting will be two kalams.

Q.—Do you realize the lease amount in kind or in cash?

A.—I realize it only in kind.

Q.—Have you any garden land?

A.—No. If there is water in the well, the tenants will raise garden crops. I have no garden land.

Q.—How much have you realized in the last fasli?

A.—I have realized Rs. 60 from 40 kanis.

Q.—What would have been the cost of cultivation?

A.—It might have been Rs. 200.

Q.—Have you realized any profit this year excluding all expenses?

A.—Yes. I might have got Rs. 500. I might have paid nearly Rs. 200 as kist in respect of those 40 kanis. This sum of Rs. 500 represents the gross income.

Q.—In how many instalments do you pay this assessment?

A.—If we have the favour of the monigar, we may pay it in instalments. If not, we have to pay it only in a lump sum.

Q.—Do they grant pattas to you? Are muchalikas given when pattas are granted?

A.—They give pattas to us in June. They begin collection in August. They begin collection at a time when there is no produce in the hands of the tenants. As far as we are concerned, muchalikas are not given. Duplicate pattas alone are given to us.

Witness No. 155.

Trichinopoly.

7th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Arunachala Nayudu, Zamin Ryot, Udayarpalayam.

The zamindars impose taxes on us and subject us to great hardship. There are 200 cawnies of land in the zamin area and about 10 or 12 cawnies in the neighbourhood. We pay the assessment for this Government village. The assessment is Rs. 6 per acre in the zamin and Re. 1-4-0 in ayan villages. We are paying the assessment with very great difficulty. The hardships experienced by us are indescribable. We are considering whether it will not be better if we leave this place and run away elsewhere. Some persons have gone to places near Kumbakonam. There are 200 cawnies of land in the Kottur village. As the assessment is high, great hardship is experienced. The rent for an acre of zamin land is Rs. 6-6-6 and this is four times the ryotwari rate.

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are you going to say anything more? Are you going to say anything new?

A.—Yes. The tank which is capable of irrigating 100 kanis is in a state of disrepair. We are paying rent out of our pockets and we derive no benefit whatever.

Q.—Have you an ayan patta? If so, please produce it?

A.—(The witness produces a zamin patta and also an ayan patta.) I shall produce thandalai patta. It belongs to a friend of mine.

Q.—Have you a patta?

A.—No. My aunt has an ayan patta. I have not brought it. I shall produce the Kottur patta.

Q.—I suppose you have nothing new to say except this?

A.—I shall say something about the tank. It is in a state of disrepair. Three hundred kanis of land are lying waste. There is no means of cultivation. We cannot question the zamindars about this; for if we do so our heads will be off. They have not at all executed any repairs. We have been paying the assessment for 37 years. No repairs have been done. Lands are lying waste. We are paying the rent. There is nothing in the lands. We pay the rent.

Q.—Have you any other land in the village?

A.—I have.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM, through Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai: Q.—What rent do you pay for a kani in the ayacut?

A.—Two rupees.

Q.—Have you wet lands?

A.—I have. They have been included in the patta. Pattas have been granted for wet and dry lands. All the trees have perished. Still we are paying the tree-tax.



Q.—I suppose that, if a tax is paid for the trees on patta lands, there is no rent for the land?

A.—We are paying a tax for the trees on patta lands and also rent for the lands.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Is there not even a single tree?

A.—No.

Q.—What is the tax per tree?

A.—We are paying the tax at the rate of 3 annas for a coconut tree, 10½ annas for a tamarind tree and 6 annas for a mango tree per annum. They are collecting this tax when there is not even a single tree. They are collecting it for ever so many trees. They collect the tax from us for five trees.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is there not even a single tree?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you submit any petition regarding this?

A.—We did; but it was of no use.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Have you got the receipts for the tax paid for the five trees?

A.—Yes. They are included in the patta. (He produces the patta.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Which year's patta is it?

A.—It is this year's patta. I have produced Velayudam Achari's patta.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Where is your patta?

A.—It is here. (He produces.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is there not even a single tree?

A.—No.

Q.—What happened to all those trees?

A.—They withered. I myself do not know when they withered. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Are you paying the tax because they have not been excluded from the patta?

A.—Yes. They collect the amount by distraining the cattle and selling them.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Should you not pay the amount?

A.—We are indeed paying it every year. They distrain the plough-cattle. We experience great difficulty for want of money. Only this year's rent is due. They have distrained the plough-cattle.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are there no arrears for previous years?

A.—We have almost cleared the arrears due for the previous years. Only the rent for this year is due. The plough-ox is worth Rs. 25. They have valued it at Rs. 3.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—What happened to that ox afterwards?

A.—We paid the money and brought it back.

Q.—For which fasli's arrears did they distrain it?

A.—It is only for the arrears due for fasli 1346 that they have distrained it now. They have done so in 20 cases. The peishkar demands bribes. If bribe is not given he does like this. If Rs. 2 is offered, they will receive it and set free the bullock.

Q.—I suppose that what you have to say further has already been mentioned by Saravana Pillai and that there is nothing else?

A.—That is all. There is nothing more.

Q.—You said that they levy tax for trees. Do they levy rent for the land also?

A.—They do. They levy rent separately for the land.

Q.—Are the trees only on cultivable lands?

A.—Yes. They levy tax for the land and the trees separately; but there are no trees whatever.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—I suppose you have not issued a registered notice to the zamindar to the effect that the trees should be excluded in levying rents?

A.—No.

Q.—Is there any evidence to show that you submitted a petition?

A.—No. They received the petition and said that they would attend to it but did not do anything.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM, through Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai : Q.—Were you employed as the zamindar's monigar in Kottur and were you collecting money as such?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for having misappropriated money while you were employed as monigar?



A.—Not 6 months but only 2 months. I submitted a note suggesting that a tax of 2 annas might be remitted. The zamindar refused to accept it and foisted this case on me on account of enmity.

Q.—Were you not sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for having misappropriated revenue collections?

A.—I was sentenced to two months. I went to jail and returned after staying there for two months. I was released on appeal.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Can you bring that paper?

A.—I shall bring it. I have not brought it now.

Q.—Did you prefer an appeal?

A.—I myself preferred an appeal; but it was rejected.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Did they release you after you had remained in jail for two months?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you found not guilty on appeal?

A.—I remained for two months. Then I was sent away.

Q.—Was the judgment of the lower court confirmed and the sentence reduced to two months on appeal?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you been working like this against the zamindar from that date onwards?

A.—I have no grudge whatever.

Q.—How many years have elapsed since you returned from jail?

A.—Four or five years.

Q.—Do they collect the same rate of rent for your wet lands irrespective of whether wet crops or dry crops are raised thereon?

A.—They collect only the wet rate.

Q.—Do they collect two rupees?

A.—They collect two rupees for waste lands. The lands have been lying waste for a long time, i.e., 37 years. They collect two rupees.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—For how many kanis do you pay like that?

A.—For 100 kanis.

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Witness No. 156.

Trichinopoly.

7th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. B. Srinivasa Pillai of Angarayanallur.**

They granted the patta for fasli 1346 in the month of June and they have distrained now. They distrained on 23rd October 1937. Before the expiry of one year they have charged interest for these two or three months. They have charged an interest of 2 annas 3 pies. Still there are some months. In addition to this, they have charged 4 annas as batta, 1 anna as sundry expenses and 2 annas as driving fees. They have charged Rs. 6-12-4 in all. The estimated value is 6 rupees, whereas the actual value is 50 rupees. They have charged Re. 1-1-3 as expenses and are collecting money like this. This is an attachment of movable property. I paid Rs. 12-7-7 and got back the ox. The amount to be paid is only Rs. 6-12-4. Instead of that I have paid this amount.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You say that all these are unnecessary. Why should you not have them removed by submitting a petition?

A.—The party is unable to do that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—When the witness produced a patta, the zamindar asked him whose it was?

A.—This belongs to another party. He is not able to come here.

I think that it would be better if summary suits are filed in either the Village Munsif's Court or the Panchayat Court when the amount involved is less than 50 rupees. Moreover they do not deem us to be men. Even though the person who pays money is a highly respectable person, he addresses the person who collects it in an honorific manner



even though he is a petty agent serving under them (zamindars). Though the ryot may be a big mirasidar, they generally do not address him in an honorific manner. (He showed some paper to the members.)

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—How much do you give for your family?

A.—I pay a kist of 200 rupees.

Q.—Have you brought your receipts?

A.—No.

Q.—Are all your lands wet or dry?

A.—All of them are dry lands.

Q.—What is the extent of your holding?

A.—I have 40 kanis.

Q.—Dry or wet?

A.—All are dry.

Q.—How much do you pay?

A.—Nearly 200 rupees.

Q.—Do you lease your holding?

A.—We do. Out of 40 kanis, we have leased 30 kanis.

Q.—How much will you get?

A.—We will get 12 or 15 rupees per kani.

Q.—You have leased 30 kanis. Do you cultivate the remaining 10 kanis?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How much will you get from them?

A.—We will get a gross income of 25 rupees.

Q.—What will be the net income?

A.—We will get 10 rupees.

Q.—What will you get for all the 30 acres?

A.—We will get 300 or 350 rupees.

Q.—What is the assessment that you pay for 30 acres?

A.—We pay 150 rupees.

Q.—What is the value of those lands?

A.—There are 4 acres of land which will sell at the rate of 200 rupees per acre. I am prepared to give away all the 30 acres even to-day for an average price of 75 rupees

Q.—Did you purchase them or did the zamindar assign them?

A.—There are lands which were purchased and also lands which were assigned.

Q.—How much was purchased?

A.—I do not know. It can be ascertained from my ancestors.

Q.—Have you any other lands?

A.—I have lands in the ayan area of the Kavalandavalli village. There are 150 kanis. Fifty kanis are wet.

Q.—What is the kist that you pay for them?

A.—We pay 400 rupees.

Q.—Wet or dry?

A.—All of them are wet.

Q.—What is the assessment per kani?

A.—We pay Rs. 10, Rs. 10-2-0, Rs. 6-5-0 and Rs. 7-2-0 per kani and Re. 1-2-0 for dry lands.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You said 10 rupees. Is it for ayan wet land?

A.—It is a double-crop land irrigated by river. We are paying rent here only with the help of that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You said 10 rupees. Is it for both the first crop and the second crop, or do you pay separately for the second crop?

A.—It is only for both the crops that we pay 10 rupees.

The witness continuing: You may remember that I said that the Peshkar Ponnuswami had distrained. That Ponnuswami Pillai brought forward a criminal charge against a person in the year 1931 and was directed to pay a compensation of 150 rupees. He is in service even now. Such a person has distrained. There are 400 kanis of forest land in Kothur and other places. But nothing grows on it. We are paying the assessment therein. If we dig the earth therein and remove the stones which are underneath the surface, we are prosecuted.



Witness No. 157.

Trichinopoly.

7th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Meenakshisundaram Pillai of Allinagaram.

Originally the Ariyalur Zamin consisted of 57 villages. The title-deed authorized the collection of 783 pagodas. The title-deed was to the effect that 200 pagodas should be paid to the Government, that the tenants should be protected and that the remaining amount should be utilized by the zamindar.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have you got the sannad?

A.—It is at home. I have not brought it here. I have submitted a copy. Now more than a lakh of rupees is collected in the zamin. No one spends anything for the tenants. All the proprietors are at great distances. They provide the vilalges with no facilities whatever. They do not provide the tenants with any public utilities such as tanks and facilities of communication. The ayan rate of assessment for wet lands is Rs. 12-12-0. It is only the tenants that are carrying out the repairs. They levy Rs. 12-12-0 per kani. The assessment for dry lands varies from Rs. 7-13-9. There are altogether 200 kanis of land in Allinagaram and a sum of Rs. 1,200 is collected. In the same village the rate varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 2-8-0. In Kuttur it does not exceed Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 in respect of wet lands. They experience much difficulty in paying the assessment. The assessment should be reduced. Something should be done for providing amenities in the village. No one has done anything for the past 100 years. The utkudi rate for wet lands is Rs. 12-12-0; the purakkudi rate is Rs. 9-8-6 and the cowle rate is Rs. 7-13-0. The rate is mentioned in this. (He hands over a paper to the Chairman.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How long is it since repairs were done?

A.—Repairs have not been done for the past 50 years.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Is there a lake?

A.—There is a tank. But they have not done anything.

Q.—Who is doing the repairs for it?

A.—The tenants are doing it themselves.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Where is the proprietor?

A.—He is in Baroda.

Q.—How many proprietors are there at present?

A.—There are more than 20. Originally it was an impartible zamin.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do you know whether it is mentioned in the Act as impartible or partible?

A.—I have not seen the Act. But I know it.

Q.—Has it been surveyed?

A.—No.

Q.—If it is surveyed, who should pay the cost?

A.—The villagers should pay a portion.

Q.—I suppose there is no trouble in regard to collection?

A.—No. We have been paying the rent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are you talking about the 50 villages or about your village?

A.—I am talking on behalf of 57 villages.

Q.—Have you visited those villages?

A.—I have visited them.

Q.—What necessity was there for you to go to those villages?

A.—All the people there are my friends. They are known to me. I had been the clerk of the Udayarpalayam Zamin Court.

Q.—What is the extent of your lands?

A.—I have 5 or 6 kanis.

Q.—Have you got them now?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Who cultivates them?

A.—I am cultivating them myself.

Q.—How long has this rent which you are paying been in vogue?

A.—It has been in vogue for a long time.

Q.—So, it has not been levied newly?

A.—No.

Q.—You said that the rent is high. Have you petitioned the Collector for reduction?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you submit a petition to the Collector stating that the lake has not been repaired?

A.—No.



Witness No. 159.

Trichinopoly.

7th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. A. R. S. M. Somasundaram Chettiyar of Devasthanam  
Pudupatti, Marungapuri zamin.

The zamin has been under the management of the Court of Wards for the last ten years. The villages therein are situated by the side of hills. The zamin authorities are treating them as forests and are causing much hardship to us by not allowing our cattle to graze there. My lands measuring over 200 acres are situated on the hills and the hill slopes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Were you grazing the cattle there formerly?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they levy fees formerly?

A.—Fees were being levied even in the days of the zamindar. I do not know whether or not they were levied before that. As far as I know, fees are being levied for the last ten years. They have been imposing several restrictions during this period. Before that a rate of 2 pies or 3 pies was being levied. The fees levied for a year in the days of the zamindar were 2 annas for a goat, 6 pies for a sheep and 1 anna for a cow or bullock. Now they are being levied at the rate of 6 annas, 3 annas and 9 annas. They say that goats should not be allowed to climb the hills. They prevent us from removing green manure, saying that a permit should be obtained therefor. It is impossible to collect green manure for lands. There were no fees for this formerly; but now they are levying fees.

Q.—How many years before were there no such fees?

A.—Before ten years.

Q.—How is it collected now?

A.—They are levying 6 annas and 4 annas for a cart-load of green manure. Fees are being levied like this only after the advent of the Court of Wards. We are prevented from collecting fuel for daily use or for use on such occasions as marriage, etc. They allow us to do so if we obtain permits. We want some places from which we can collect fuel.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—If you pay fees, they give you fuel?

A.—Can every one pay money and obtain fuel? No.

We are unable to collect wood for agricultural implements. The scheduled-rate is 4 annas for a head-load of reapers and 6 annas for a bundle of rafters. A fixed amount is collected for a cart-load. In the days of the zamindar the fee for a goat was 2 annas. Now goats are not at all allowed to graze. A fee of 6 annas is levied for a bull. They are collecting these fees only after the death of the zamindar.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are these fees collected only after the Court of Wards took charge of the estate?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you say that definitely? Have you any document in support of your statement?

A.—I have no such document. Waste lands and poramboke lands should be assigned to the tenants. The tenants should be granted pattas.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Why should they be assigned?

A.—These lands should be assigned because they belong to the tenants. They will be of some use if they are in the occupation of the tenants. There is no use of their being in the possession of the zamindar. There is not even a single fruit tree in the forest. There will be no harm if it is left to the tenants. There are only acacia timber trees and prickly-pear in the forest.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they cut and sell wood for fuel in the zamin?

A.—I take exemption only to that.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—If the forest is not protected, no fuel will be available after some time?

A.—Wood should be cut in small quantities. We do not cut wood and sell it. The zamin authorities too lease out forest coupes for charcoal. There is no other income.

Even when the crops fail full rent is collected. Remission should be granted in such cases. If there is rain and a second crop is cultivated, one-half of the rent for the first crop is levied. It is levied at different rates ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 7 per acre according to the classification of the land.

Q.—Is the same rate of rent levied irrespective of the crop cultivated?

A.—Yes.



Q.—Is there an ayan village nearby?

A.—There is.

Q.—Is there any difference between the two villages?

A.—There is. They are 5 or 6 miles apart.

I do not say that the rate of rent is high. I only say that remission should be granted when the crops fail. Water-tax is levied for the second crop. It should not be levied. Apart from the classification of lands as wet and dry, if a man digs a well and irrigates his land with the water baled from it, it is treated as a garden land and an enhanced tax is levied. It is the result of the tenant's efforts and should not be called garden land. Lands should be classified only as wet or dry. There are small kanmois. The tanks are never repaired.

Q.—For how many years repairs have not been done?

A.—So far as I know, they have not been done for 30 or 35 years.

Q.—How many years is it since the estate came under the management of the Court of Wards?

A.—Ten or eleven yeras. Repairs have not been done even during the management of the Court of Wards.

Q.—Did you submit a petition?

A.—We submit petitions to the Collector and the latter forwards them to the Manager. No reply is sent to us. There are no means of redressing our grievances.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Have you not made any representation in writing?

A.—I have submitted petitions ever so many times. I have sent my petitions by registered post and have also presented them to the Manager in person. I can bring the Manager here and prove what I say.

When I complain to the Manager he asks me to write to the Collector. If I write to the Collector there is no reply. The petition is sent to the Manager. This is well known. I do not exaggerate matters.

Q.—Have you copies of all these petitions?

A.—I have not brought them. They are in my house.

Q.—Please bring them to-morrow.

Witness: They are in Puduppatti. I shall produce them at any place you require.

Witness continuing: The assessment on lands and trees should be reduced. They are levying tax at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  annas for a tamarind tree and 5 annas for a coconut tree irrespective of whether there is any yield or not.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do they levy it even if there is no plant?

A.—They levy it only if there are plants. Even if the trees have withered, they collect the tax without granting remission.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Did you not object to it?

A.—We objected to it and submitted a petition. They said that, if we paid the tax for three years, they would remit that tax. I paid it. But still no remission was granted.

The CHAIRMAN: Please bring all those papers. I shall forward them to them and ask for their explanation.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Was the state of affairs like this even during the time of the Zamindar?

A.—It has been so for the last 50 years. There are no facilities for irrigation. If there is any breach in the tank, no repairs are done. The lands are brought to auction for arrears of rent. If there is an arrear of Rs. 2, they make it Rs. 30 or Rs. 25. After recovering the whole of that amount, they say that the costs also should be paid. The majority of the tenants are poor. They have no resources for meeting excessive expenditure. I suggest that the zamin ryots should be helped with long-term loans at a low rate of interest. Even if a tree is very near patta lands, they say that it does not belong to them and levy a compound assessment of Rs. 30 or Rs. 20. This should not be allowed. The patta tenants should be permitted to enjoy such trees.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—It is only a poramboke tree. I suppose we have no right to it?

A.—They indeed say so.

Q.—Has your village been surveyed?

A.—Yes. It was surveyed 30 or 40 years ago.



Witness continuing: The tenants should be permitted to cut the trees in the tanks belonging to them as well as those on the bunds of such tanks. In times of failure of crops, movable and immovable properties are distrained. We suggest that they should receive the rent in kind.

Q.—You say that, if the crops fail in a particular year, the rent should be collected next year?

A.—Yes. At present, they distrain our household utensils. Instead of this let them recover the rent when there is a good yield. Contracts for works relating to the zamin are given to outsiders. I suggest that this practice should be stopped and that these contracts should be given only to those holding lands in the ayacut. They will do the work better.

Q.—Do you say that the procedure adopted in the ayan villages should be followed?

A.—Yes.

Witness continuing: If the tenants ask for the demarcation of the limits of their lands, they are asked to pay fees. The zamin authorities should be asked to indicate the limits without demanding any fees.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—How much do they demand?

A.—They demand fees according to the circumstances. They should be asked to do it without demanding even a single pie.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Such fees are levied in ayan villages. They are likewise demanding it here?

A.—We do not know that. The people in our village are poor. There are 100 villages in the zamin areas. The posts of village munsif and karnam are hereditary and no outsiders are appointed to these posts. I suggest that educated men should be given appointments in the zamin. Separate assessments are levied for lands and trees. This should not be done. Pattas should be granted in respect of adjacent lands and nothing should be demanded therefor. They do not grant pattas from time to time, but continue to keep joint pattas in force. In cases where the rent has to be paid by four persons, if three of them have paid it and the remaining person has not paid it, it is collected from the other three. This practice should be stopped. There should be no joint pattas. If a man improves any poramboke or waste lands and plants trees thereon, he is driven away and the lands are taken away by the zamin authorities. I say that they should be left to the tenants. Pattas should not be granted to the zamindar in respect of lands other than those which were formerly pannai lands.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—To whom do you say that the lands should be assigned?

A.—I say that the lands in respect of which the pattas are in the name of the zamindar should be transferred to the tenants.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You refer to pannai lands. I suppose those trees are only on these lands?

A.—The tenants have grown trees on porambokes. I say that these should be assigned to the tenants. The owner of the neighbouring land grows coconut trees in the adjoining poramboke. There is a piece of land adjoining mine. They say that it belongs to them. I say that the land and the trees should be assigned to the owner of the adjoining land.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—The Sub-Registrar's office can transfer the pattas. Why do you not have them transferred there?

A.—A patta granted 37 years ago has not yet been transferred. If there is a joint patta for 50 persons, they say that they will transfer it only with the consent of all the 50 persons. The same is the case even during the management of the Court of Wards.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is it so even now?

A.—What existed formerly still continues.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Has nothing been done even during the management of the Court of Wards?

A.—They have been effecting transfers during the last ten years. They are doing so only now.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—The estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards for the last ten years. If you have any complaints regarding that management, mention them serially?

A.—I shall mention the irregularities which have been in existence ever since the establishment of the zamin. They continue even now.

Q.—If you have any evidence for complaining against the Court of Wards, please bring it. We shall hear you again and take the necessary steps. If you come back, we shall examine you. Please appear before us on the 10th instant and represent all your grievances.



**Recalled 10th February 1938.**

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Have you brought the documents referred to by you yesterday?

A.—Yes. From 1909 to 1920, the rates were :—

RS. A. P.

0 0 3 for a sheep;

0 0 6 for a cow or bullock; and

0 2 0 for a goat.

From 1920 to 1929, they were :—

RS. A. P.

0 4 0 for a goat;

0 0 6 for a sheep; and

0 1 0 for a cow or bullock.

The rate was As. 6 for a cow or bullock in 1930 and As. 3 for a sheep from 1931 to 1937. Goats were not permitted. (He filed receipts.)

Q.—Have you any other evidence? If you have, you may file it.

A.—I submitted a petition for the transfer of a patta, but no orders have been received.

Q.—Has no patta been granted after the submission of the petition?

A.—A patta has not been granted to me in respect of the land in question.

Q.—In which fasli did you submit a petition?

A.—I presented a petition in the year 1934.

Q.—Have you not brought the patta here?

A.—No.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—You may bring it to Madura and file it there?

A.—Yes, I shall do so. The patta for fasli 1340 has been filed now.

Q.—Is not the aforesaid land included in this patta?

A.—No. This land has not been included in it.

Q.—Anything else?

A.—I have sent a number of similar petitions by registered post. The patta has not been transferred. A decree has been passed for 1934–1935 fasli. Even after we had sold the lands, they were distrained and the dues collected. Though they said that they would grant remission after collecting three years' tax in respect of lands where there are no trees, they have not done so. The pattas in respect of lands sold by us have not been transferred and the rent due in respect thereof have been collected from us instead of from the purchaser after the institution of a 'summary suit.' He lives at a distance of 30 or 40 miles. I have produced the documents before the office. I have also got the receipt. For each fasli they are collecting the rent from me without fail.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : There will not be this difficulty if the patta is transferred.

Witness : Water-rate has been levied. There was no yield last year and yet water-tax has been levied.

(He filed it as exhibit.)

The patta in respect of lands purchased in 1922 has not yet been transferred. Pattas are granted in respect of tamarind and mango trees which are in the centre of a forest and a tax is levied thereon. The Collector has issued an order that we can cut the trees which are inside the tanks. The Collector passed a judgment in 1897 that we can cut trees for making ploughs, etc. They have refused to grant me a copy of the judgment, so I have brought a copy taken by me. If the cattle enter the forests, they impound them and levy a fine. Though a sum of twelve or thirteen thousand rupees was sanctioned for repairs, no repairs have been done for our benefit. Even last year a sum of Rs. 11,050 was sanctioned, but nothing was done for us. I do not know whether they are constructing buildings for themselves. For a place where there is no tree, they have collected the tree-tax for three years and are demanding it again. Even though ten years have elapsed since we sold a particular piece of land, they include us as 'supplementary' defendants in the suit filed by them. They obtain a decree and distrain our lands. We have no other alternative but to pay the amount. As the patta has not been transferred, the assessment is being collected from us.



Q.—This is the case in all estates?

A.—But it is more so in our estate. The patta for waste lands is in the name of the zamindar. I request that all those should be assigned to the tenants. The lands are brought to auction without the knowledge of the mortgagor and the mortgagee. They should be brought to auction only after they are informed. The forest rates should be reduced. Water-cess is levied for the poramboke irrigated by the pattadars at their own cost. It should not be levied. In the zamin area, there are three rivers, viz., the Kan-nutrar, the Vellar and the Palar. They should be diverted. They are collecting 8 annas and 10 annas as poundage for a sheep and a bullock, respectively. The rates should be reduced to 1 anna and 2 annas, respectively. They are issuing orders that the cotton plants should be harvested by the 1st of August.

Q.—Is it stated so in the patta?

A.—No. The Agricultural department issues such an order. On account of this order, we do not get the full benefit. The kanmoi of the zamin village has not been repaired nearly for the last 40 years. There are no schools in the zamin areas. There are only a few. There are no facilities for the supply of drinking water. There are no roads in the zamin area. There are no panchayat boards in 100 villages. There are only one or two. The pay of the village officers is Rs. 7. It should be the same as in ayan villages. Pattas should not be granted to the karnam in respect of waste and poramboke lands. The levy of fishery rent should be discontinued. No tax should be levied in respect of the trees which have perished.

The CHAIRMAN.—Please do not repeat what you have already said.

Witness : There is only one hospital for 200 square miles in the zamin area. Hospitals should be provided. In the forests, there are only trees fit for being used as fuel. There are no fruit-bearing trees. Kist is being collected in the zamin in a merciless manner. If we question the Marungapuri manager about this, he refers us to the Collector. This I said yesterday. This is all what I have to say.

Witness No. 162.

Trichinopoly.

8th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. R. M. A. R. Somasundaram Pillai, son of Arunachalam Pillai, Murugur village, Turaiyur zamin.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Which zamin do you belong to?

A.—Turaiyur zamin.

Q.—What is the name of your zamindar?

A.—Prasanna Venkatachala Durai.

Q.—Where is he?

A.—He is at Turaiyur.

Q.—Are you a tenant?

A.—Yes, I am a tenant.

Q.—What are you going to say about that estate?

A.—There are several grievances in that estate. As we are ryots we should be recognized as the proprietors of the soil. In fasli 1316, they described us as leaseholders. As we objected to it, they said that we had to pay rent. It is only in support of this that I have filed this receipt.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Have you the right to sell the lands?

A.—We had that right formerly. But now they have granted revised pattas.

Q.—Do you buy or sell lands?

A.—For the past 40 or 50 years, the condition was only like that. But after we took exception, they changed it into rent.

Q.—What is the rate of rent?

A.—It is very high.

Q.—Is it high for both wet and dry lands?

A.—Yes. There are three different rates of assessment for wet lands. They are, Rs. 18 for garden lands and Rs. 12 and Rs. 7 for certain wet lands. The rates for dry lands are Rs. 5, Rs. 3 and Rs. 4.

Q.—Is the rent fixed in the lease or levied cropwar?

A.—One rate (lower rate) is levied for gingelly and horsegram. A different rate is levied for the other crops.



Q.—Is the rent fixed according to the quality of the soil?

A.—The soil has been divided into four kinds, viz., brackish, sandy, red and black.

Q.—Is the same rate levied for all crops in all the four kinds of soil?

A.—The highest rate is for the black soil, i.e., Rs. 5. The next is for the red soil, i.e., Rs. 3. The rent for the brackish soil is Rs. 1-8-0 and that for the sandy soil Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8-0.

Q.—Is it per acre or kani?

A.—Kani—1 acre and 33 cents.

Q.—Is there any difference in rent?

A.—They have raised it little by little.

Q.—What is the rent?

A.—For 10 kanis, it was Rs. 85 in fasli 1331, Rs. 100 in fasli 1332 and Rs. 109-4-0 in fasli 1345.

Q.—Have they increased the cropwar assessment or the rate?

A.—They have increased the rate by differentiating between single crop and double crop lands.

Q.—Was no rent levied originally for the second crop?

A.—If, after inspection, the karnam said that the land in question was a double crop land and not a single crop land, a higher rent was collected.

Q.—Have they entered single crop lands as double crop lands in the accounts?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Do they levy it even if you don't raise the second-crop?

A.—Yes.

(Questioned in English and translated into Tamil by Mr. Venkatachalam Pillai.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you submitted any petition against such a practice?

A.—No.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Why?

A.—We do not get any relief even if we submit petitions.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Did you not submit petitions?

A.—No.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Is the source of irrigation a tank?

A.—It is a tank.

Q.—Have they carried out any repairs to the tank?

A.—No.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How many tanks are there?

A.—Six, viz., Sithambur, Thukkayilur, Kilambur, etc.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Did you submit a written petition? If so, to whom?

A.—Yes; to the Collector.

Q.—Did you send it through registered post?

A.—Not through registered post. We sent the petition only by ordinary post.

Q.—Was there any relief?

A.—No. (Witness filed a petition regarding tank.)

Q.—When did you submit a petition to the Collector?

A.—In 1936.

Q.—Have not the grievances been redressed till now?

A.—No. (He filed an account of the expenses of repairs done by collecting money among themselves at Sikkathambur.)

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Is it you tenants that should repair the tank? When did you do so?

A.—Yes; on 26th September 1935.

Q.—Who is bound to repair it?

A.—It is only the zamindar that should do the repairs. (He filed a petition requesting remission of kist.)

Q.—Does it irrigate the lands throughout the year?

A.—It irrigates them only for six months.



Q.—Is any remission granted when there is no supply of water?  
A.—No.

Q.—I suppose crops will grow in your place only if there is rain.  
A.—Yes.

Q.—Is the rent in arrears?

A.—At present only the rent for one fasli is in arrears.

Q.—What is the rate of assessment in the neighbourhood?

A.—It is Rs. 1-4-0 in the neighbourhood and Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 here.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the assessment for wet lands and for dry lands?

A.—In the zamin village, it is Rs. 5 for black dry soil. The ayan assessment is Rs. 2-10-0. In the ayan village, it is Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 for wet lands. The charge for digging a well is Rs. 45. In the ayan village, the minimum rate is Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 and the maximum rate is Rs. 12. In the zamin village, the minimum rate is Rs. 7 and the maximum rate is Rs. 18.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—Rs. 18 for what?

A.—For what is called a garden, i.e., only for paddy.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What do you get from the land for which you pay Rs. 18 as rent?

A.—If the crops grow well, we will get 5 to 10 kalams after paying the kist, otherwise we will only incur loss.

Q.—Is there any forest for grazing cattle?

A.—No.

Q.—Is there any facility for grazing cattle?

A.—There is no facility.

Q.—Have you any right in the poramboke?

A.—We have no right in the poramboke. It has been almost entirely assigned. There is no poramboke in any village.

Q.—Is it so only now or was it the case even originally?

A.—Formerly there were porambokes in every village. But they have been assigned.

Q.—Are the trees assessed?

A.—Not at present.

Q.—Have you any right to the trees?

A.—The entire right to the trees is only ours. They have assigned the public paths, porambokes and cremation grounds.

Q.—Did you not object to it saying that it was wrong to assign public places?

A.—We did not.

Q.—Are they granting pattas every year?

A.—They do not grant them regularly. A certain person may be holding a piece of land and the patta relating to it will continue to be in the name of a deceased person even for five generations. It is not transferred.

Q.—Has your village been surveyed?

A.—It has not been surveyed.

Q.—What are the requirements of the villages at present?

A.—The villages should be surveyed. Pattas should be transferred easily and promptly. The tanks should be repaired properly and they should be under the supervision of the Government.

Q.—Do you not want a resettlement?

A.—The assessment should be settled as in the case of the ayan villages and we should have the right to take stones from the Government lands.

Q.—Are not stones given to you now?

A.—They put them to auction and we take them for our use only afterwards.

Q.—Whom does that quarry belong to?

A.—It belongs to the zamindar.

Q.—How do they collect the rent?

A.—They collect the whole amount in only one instalment.

Q.—Is there no condition laid down in the patta in regard to this?

A.—In the patta it is laid down that it should be collected in six months. But they do not follow it. It should be collected in six instalments. But they do not do so.

Q.—I suppose they collect the rent only after it becomes due?

A.—They collect the rent for a certain year only in the next year.



Q.—I suppose you come to know the amount of assessment only after the grant of the patta?

A.—Yes. That is why they collect the kist in the next year.

Q.—Is any assessment levied on waste lands in your village?

A.—Yes. It varies from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 1-8-0.

Q.—Is it being levied from the very beginning?

A.—Yes. Re. 0-4-7 for one-eighth of a kani. Rs. 2-4-0 for waste land.

Q.—Can you mention the rates taramwar?

A.—Rs. 3 for sandy waste. Rs. 3-8-0 for red-soiled waste.

Q.—How many villages are there in Turaiyur?

A.—Turaiyur consists of 13 villages. A title-deed was granted to the zamindar in 1802. It was ordered that a sum of Rs. 21,000 should be collected. They pay a peshkash of 200 pagodas, i.e., Rs. 700.

Q.—What is the present income?

A.—Rs. 43,000.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—They are bringing to auction one or two kanis of land even for an arrear of ten rupees. As no notice is given, we do not come to know of the auction and much loss is incurred consequently. The land in question may be in the name of a deceased person and they will give a notice to his grandson. A plot of land measuring 1-5/8 kanis and worth three thousand rupees was brought to auction by the zamindar for Rs. 23. I have now preferred a complaint about it.

Q.—I suppose you do not want it.

A.—No. That is why I am filing it.

Q.—Who bids in this auction?

A.—The manager of the zamin has purchased it for Rs. 33 in the auction.

Q.—Does your zamindar take lands in auction for five annas?

A.—No.

Q.—What became of the case?

A.—The zamindar received Rs. 300 and withdrew the case and returned the zamin land.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Is there any amount of rent due?

A.—No.

Q.—Did they return the land only after receiving Rs. 300 in spite of the fact that no amount was due?

Q.—Is any remission granted when famine occurs as a result of insufficient rains?

A.—No remission is granted. Remission should be granted when rains fail or the crops become blighted.

Q.—What is the assessment levied if houses are built on patta lands?

A.—We have to pay dry rates if we build houses on dry lands and wet rates if we build them on wet lands. No concession is shown to us.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How much of your holdings in this estate is wet and how much dry?

A.—We have 60 kanis consisting of both wet and dry lands.

Q.—How is movable property distrained?

A.—It is done through the revenue court. It would be better if everything is done through the civil court.

Q.—When an auction is held, do you not come to know of it?

A.—No. It would be better for us if it is laid down that the produce should first be auctioned and that, if it is not possible, proceedings should be taken through the civil court. Money should be advanced for a low rate of interest and some amount should be statutorily set apart for repairs and public purposes. One-fifth should be allotted for the establishment and at least two-fifths should be set apart for the above purposes. There should be a statutory provision for advancing money for a low rate of interest. Roads should be laid in villages where there are no roads.

Q.—Have you no lands in the ryotwari area?

A.—There are 70 acres of wet land near Valadi.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You said that 1½ kanis of land had been distrained for Rs. 29 and odd. What is its price?

A.—Rs. 3,000.



Q.—What is the rent for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kanis of land?

A.—Rs. 20 and odd.

Q.—Is the rent for a piece of land worth three thousand rupees only Rs. 20?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you only lease out this land?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What will you get if you lease it out?

A.—I will get 22 to 24 kalams. I will get a lease amount of Rs. 70 per kani.

Q.—I suppose this is the income from wet land?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many crops do you raise on it?

A.—Only one crop.

Q.—It is said that the leaseholders too should be given the right to the land. Can it be given?

A.—It should not be given.

Q.—Why should it not be given?

A.—It should not be given merely because he works hard and cultivates the land.

Q.—Is it not he that cultivates the land?

A.—Yes. He should not be given the occupancy right.

Q.—So, you say that he should not be given the right. Is it because you have paid a large sum that you say so?

A.—Yes.

Q.—The zamin ryots too are occupying land without paying anything. Then, why do some people demand that they should be given occupancy right?

A.—We have spent money. So, it should only be our property.

Q.—Do you say that you do not like the idea of giving the right to the land gratuitously? For what amount will you agree to give that right? Will you be satisfied if he cultivates the land and you possess it?

A.—I will not agree to leave it to him after receiving an amount.

Q.—Do you want only the right according to the agreement and the lease?

A.—I am not willing to give the right to the land.

Q.—Do you say that you should have the power of granting a lease or cancelling it?

A.—Yes. What remains after paying the rent to us is his profit.

Q.—Then do you say it is half.

A.—If they give us 20 kalams, they will get 10 kalams.

Q.—Is it a condition attached to the 'waram' tenure that you should get two-thirds and he one-third?

A.—“Waram” means the sharing of the produce equally by the two parties.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Can full rights be given to them if they pay one year's income? If the occupancy right is to be given, what is the compensation that should be reasonably paid?

A.—It cannot be given even if 25 years' income is paid.

Q.—How much should the cultivators pay if they want the occupancy right statutorily?

A.—They may be given that right if they pay 20 years' income.

Q.—In regard to a piece of land which is leased, if one half of the produce is given regularly, what objection can there be to the lessee cultivating it permanently?

A.—There is no reason to grant the right statutorily.

Q.—I suppose it is only the rate which was fixed in fasli 1259 that is in force even now?

A.—It has been increased subsequently.

Q.—Has it decreased?

A.—It has not decreased.

Q.—What is the price of land in your village?

A.—Cattle grazing forest land sells at Rs. 500, Rs. 400 or Rs. 300.

Q.—Is it wet?

A.—Dry land.

Q.—You have stated that porambokes, public paths and cremation porambokes have been assigned, can you substantiate your statement?

A.—I cannot cite any particular instance. I have no evidence with me.

Q.—How many villages are there on the whole in your estate?

A.—Thirteen villages.



Q.—I suppose you are speaking on behalf of all the villages?

A.—Yes. I know the affairs relating to all the 13 villages.

Q.—Is there a zamin ryots' association in your village?

A.—No.

Witness No. 163.

Trichinopoly.

8th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Muthukaruppa Chetti, Turaiyur.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—What is your assessment? What is the nature of your land?

A.—My assessment is Rs. 350. I have both dry and wet lands.

Q.—How much?

A.—Twenty-seven cawnies of wet land and 70 to 80 cawnies of dry land.

Q.—Are repairs done to the tank?

A.—In Turaiyur the tank is not repaired.

Q.—How much land is irrigated?

A.—Two hundred and thirty cawnies.

Q.—What is the rate of assessment for wet lands?

A.—It is Rs. 7, Rs. 9, Rs. 13 or Rs. 14 according to the classification.

Q.—Do you get a proper supply of water? If you do not, did you submit any petition?

A.—We do not get a proper supply. We submitted a petition to the Collector last year. He sent it to the Magistrate for enquiry. We pay a beriz of Rs. 44,500. They said that the entire amount had been spent.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What are the repairs that should be done for the tank?

A.—The masonry structure has collapsed. There is obstruction in the sluice. The stones in the bund have fallen down.

Q.—For how many years have repairs not been done?

A.—For 20 years.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—What happened to the petition?

A.—The zamindar said that he would repair the tank if one rupee per cawny was paid to him. So we executed a compromise deed agreeing to pay one rupee per cawny. Then we submitted a petition to the Collector suggesting that the Engineering department should do the repairs. It is not known what orders have been passed thereon.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—When?

A.—The Collector made a personal inspection in December.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—If you do not require the copy of the compromise deed and if you want to file it, you may file it. I suppose no repairs have been done afterwards?

A.—No, repairs have been done after this compromise.

Q.—Have you paid the amount?

A.—The arrangement is to collect it along with the other dues in each fasli. As the pattas have not been granted still, we have not yet paid the money.

Q.—Have you anything more to say?

A.—It is necessary to survey the lands and examine the pattas. The village munsif and the karnam collect an additional amount of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, that is to say, 6 pies per rupee, and this amount is not mentioned in the patta.

Q.—Do they collect it as fees for realizing the assessment or towards their pay?

A.—For collecting the assessment.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Do they take it themselves?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any provision in the patta?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you not refuse to pay it?

A.—They would say that they do not like to collect the assessment from us and would bring the land to auction. This difficulty will cease if the lands are surveyed and a settlement is made.

Q.—Who should bear the cost of survey?

A.—The zamindar alone should bear it.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Why should not the Government bear the cost?

A.—It is only the zamindar that enjoys the land.

Q.—Your zamindar pays a small peshkash. In other places a larger sum is paid. Why should not the Government bear the cost?

A.—If the Government bear it, we have no objection. The difficulty in regard to water-supply should be removed.

Q.—You said that the tank had not been repaired. But they say that the zamindar repaired it in April last?

A.—They did only some earth work. After the Collector had conducted an enquiry they put only some mud on the bund.

Q.—Is there water for six months as a result of this repair?

A.—Now there is only a small quantity of water.

Q.—Does not the tank irrigate all the wet lands in its ayacut?

A.—We are now baling out water.

Q.—Is there now sufficient water or not?

A.—We are now obliged to bale out water. There is not sufficient water. We are baling out water from our own wells. The water thus baled out can reach only the adjacent lands. There is only a small quantity of water. It will not suffice for all the lands.

Q.—How do the lands sell in your village?

A.—A cawny sells at Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,200.

Q.—Are you cultivating your lands yourselves?

A.—We cultivate our lands ourselves and also lease them.

Q.—If you lease them, what will they fetch?

A.—We will get 20 kalams or Rs. 70 per cawny. If it is leased on varam tenure, we will get 30 kalams for two crops. In this case, we have to supply the manure.

Q.—If you get Rs. 70, have you no expenses to meet?

A.—No. As there was no water for four months, we pay Rs. 10. Deducting the expenses, we may get Rs. 60. We pay the tax out of this amount.

Q.—What is the amount of tax?

A.—We pay tax at the rate of Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 per cawny.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—Do you get Rs. 70 like this every year?

A.—There was no water last year and so we could not get that amount. As there was no water, there was not much cultivation.

Q.—How much do you get from dry lands?

A.—The net income from dry lands is Rs. 5 per cawny.

Q.—What is the assessment on those lands?

A.—We get only the stubble and the fodder. We pay the entire amount to the zamindar.

Witness No. 164.

Trichinopoly.

8th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. R. Krishnaswami Mudaliyar, Zamin Ryot, Kannankurichi, Salem district.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Which zamin do you belong to?

A.—I am a zamin ryot of Kannankurichi.

Q.—Have you any lands?

A.—I have.

Q.—Whom does it belong to?

A.—To K. Sivasankara Mudaliyar.

Q.—How many villages has he?

A.—Six villages.

Q.—What is the extent of your holding?

A.—Seventy-five acres of dry land.

Q.—What is the rent?

A.—I pay Rs. 100 and odd.



Q.—Are there garden lands?

A.—There are. They are cultivated with water baled from wells. Apart from them there are lands which are cultivated with rain water. The Zamindar says that he is the proprietor of the soil. He has been doing like this for the past seven or eight years. Before that they were not stating in the patta that he had such right. But it is stated so in a patta granted recently.

(‘He filed as exhibit the patta Kannankurichi zamin fasli 1338.’)

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is it a condition laid down in the patta itself?

A.—Yes. (‘Any part of the holding is a separate holding.’) This is a patta granted in March 1896, i.e., in fasli 1295. They have changed it from fasli 1332.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do you mean to say that they have been changing the patta as they liked?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have they now abolished the rate of six annas per cent and made it one anna?

A.—A number of suits were filed by them claiming that they had the mining right and that they were entitled to one-third share of the occupancy right and as a result of it the irrigation facility, which could have been secured by the pattadars, was made available to the Zamindar.

If a house is purchased in the municipality and a compensation of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 is given, they claim a share even in that amount. So the Zamindar has newly introduced a clause in the patta to the effect that he has the mining right.

Q.—Have you launched any case regarding that?

A.—A case was pursued as far as the High Court and it was decreed that one-third should be given.

Q.—Have you derived any advantage by launching the case?

A.—No.

Q.—What else do you want to say?

A.—It should be used only for cultivation and nothing else. Cultivation should not be carried on in the town-planning area. The municipality give notice stating that it is bad from the point of view of health. But the Zamindar says that only buildings should be constructed. There are ever so many places like this in the Salem municipality.

Q.—Is Mr. Foulkes the Zamindar of Salem?

A.—Yes.

If the land is in a higher level and cannot be irrigated with water from a well, it will be very expensive to bring it to the normal level. If we do anything for utilizing that rising ground economically, they take legal action. Bricks can be manufactured and the upper part utilized. They refuse to allow even this. So, my view is that they should have only the melvaram right and no other right. The rent in the zamin village is higher than the assessment in the ryotwari village. It is 14 annas in one zamin village, Rs. 3-2-0 in the adjoining zamin village and 8 annas in the ryotwari village.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is it not so in the Government villages?

A.—In the Government villages, the assessment on dry lands is Rs. 1-8-0. There it ranges up to Rs. 3. The Zamindar of Kannankurichi receives presents and allows persons to cultivate certain lands in Kondappanayakkanpatti; he does not grant patta for a period of three or four years after the land is cleared of shrubs and brought under cultivation; nor does he give receipts for the payment of rent. If any other person then applies for that land, he gives it to him after receiving some present from him.

Q.—Is there any record to show this?

A.—There is a record in the Collector's office, in the hands of the Government. They have stated through the Collector that they are paying the tax to the village officer. No entries have been made in the accounts for the presents taken from everyone once in three years.

Q.—Have they taken such presents from you?

A.—No.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are there accounts with the Zamindar?

A.—There may be; I do not know.

Q.—Has any agent of the Zamindar come here?

A.—No. The patta is not easily transferred even if a decree is passed by the court. They bring the land to auction stating that the notice had been served on the deceased person.



Q.—Can you cite particular cases? Is there any record?

A.—I was asked to furnish this committee with information. That is why I have stated this. The tank should be examined once a year through the Public Works Department and the Zamindar should repair it through the Collector.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How many tanks are there in the zamin?

A.—There are four tanks for six villages.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Has not even a single tank been repaired?

A.—Generally speaking, no repairs have been done for the past twenty years.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Did you not complain?

A.—Ever so many persons submitted petitions and represented the matter in person. But no repairs were done.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you submit the petition in person or send it through registered post?

A.—We sent it by post.

Q.—Are you not a pattadar?

A.—I am not a pattadar.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Is there a manager for your Zamindar?

A.—No. There are only clerks.

Q.—If 50 acres of wet land that can be irrigated by a tank are mentioned as 500 acres, have you raised any objection to it?

A.—I do not know whether the objection petition was sent by registered post. They have submitted it ordinarily.

If the land in question is a poramboke land, it should be assigned only to them. I purchased a piece of land in the year 1896. As I took objection to the terms of the patta and as the land is a poramboke, a suit was filed for my eviction and a decree was passed against me. It relates to the sale deed of 1896.

Q.—Was it surveyed when it was purchased?

A.—It was surveyed in 1919. But a patta was not granted.

Q.—What is the contention of the Zamindar?

A.—His contention is that it is a poramboke and that it is his land. A decree has been passed in favour of the Zamindar. It relates to the first document executed before 1890.

Q.—Is it stated that the sale deed will not be binding?

A.—(In this British Government) it is only in favour of the Zamindar that a judgment is given in all the courts. A fund should be set apart for granting remission when there is a failure of rain. There should be jamabandi every year. Grazing facilities should be afforded in hill and forest porambokes.

Q.—Are there hills and forests in your estate?

A.—There are. In some places in the jaghir grazing and watering permits are granted for cattle. Eight annas has to be paid to the Government per head of cattle. We have to pay 8 annas per year to the Zamindar and 8 annas to this Jaghirdar. The whole of the Kannankurichi mitta has now been surveyed. But the settlement has not been made. Permission should be granted for this. It should be laid down that nothing but rent should be collected.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do they collect any tax which is not mentioned in the patta?

A.—They collect tree-tax. It is not mentioned in the patta. If a suit has to be filed for the discontinuance of the levy of a tree-tax of 4 annas or 2 annas, much expense is entailed. So we have to keep quiet for fear of that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Can you cite any case?

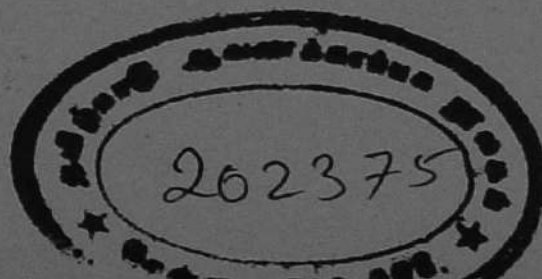
A.—Hundreds of cases can be cited.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—Are there trees in your patta?

A.—There are no trees in my patta. But they have stated in the patta that there are trees. I have therefore filed a suit regarding this matter. It is stated in the patta that the trees on the land belong to them. In the patta granted by them, they have mentioned the trees which I have planted as theirs. I have therefore filed a suit.

Q.—Are they trees planted before 1908 or after that?

A.—They are trees which I planted after 1908. I filed a suit. I am the plaintiff in S.S. No. 8 of 1930 of the Revenue Divisional Court, Salem (A.S. No. 430, District Court Appeal).



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Q.—What is the result of the suit?

A.—It was decided in my favour. A patta has not yet been granted to me in accordance with those terms.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Why did you not petition the Collector in regard to this matter and institute proceedings?

A.—If we are to go to the Court for anything and everything, it only entails expense.

Q.—Did you ask the Zamindar what should be done for that?

A.—We would only request the Zamindar that he and the others should not give us trouble. Grazing facilities and facilities for manufacturing agricultural implements should be provided. The Zamindar too empowers some of the village officers to levy fines. In certain matters Mr. Foulkes and our Zamindar have been authorized to correct false cases. Such authorization is found to be a great hindrance. There is another thing. It should be laid down that, if a land is brought to auction, the Zamindar's relatives or agent should not bid. Now 1 anna is levied instead of the old assessment of 6 pies per cent. If it rains on the hills and if the rain-water flows through a dry land, they levy a water-rate of 1 anna for that dry land also. When it flows into the low lands, they collect land tax and charge wet rate saying that the rain-water flows through that land. They are lands in which groundnut and greengram are cultivated with the help of water baled from wells. That rain-water washes away the produce and even the soil, and they charge wet rate for this.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do they not levy a tax for air?

A.—They do not levy a tax for air. (Laughter). We pay what is called the road-cess. But they do not lay any roads for us.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—They pay it only to the local board, is it not?

A.—Yes. But still I say this only with the hope that something may be done if it is represented to the Zamindar.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—This Zamindar is not a member of the District Board. If he is a member, he will do something for you?

A.—They collect 6 pies for a cart-load of silt.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Are there accounts with them?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For how many years have they been collecting tax? In which tank?

A.—The new tank in Kannankurichi, Mookan tank in Foulkes' zamin, Sakkal tank in Salem, Thathampatti tank and Veeranam tank. They assign the tank-bed. The bed of the tank becomes raised by 3 or 4 feet from the usual depth.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you submitted any petition against such a procedure?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you represent it to the Collector?

A.—No. But if you come with me I can show it in person. The committee should not think that I am misrepresenting facts. It is found in the Zamindar's chitta also. I would therefore request that, if the tank has been assigned, it should be cancelled.

Q.—What is the extent of your holding?

A.—Seventy-five acres of irrigated land.

Q.—Do you lease it out?

A.—I cultivate it myself with the help of ten or twelve servants.

Q.—What are the crops raised?

A.—Groundnut and Cambodia cotton.

Q.—Do you grow tobacco and plantains?

A.—No.

Q.—What is the rent for these 75 acres?

A.—As. 14-2 from the date of paimash. They have subsequently made a 'survey assignment.' We pay Rs. 100 and odd.

Q.—Is there any assessment for betel?

A.—In Singalandipuram, if betel is cultivated a separate assessment is levied.

Q.—When did you purchase land for the first time?

A.—I purchased it bit by bit from 1917.



Q.—What is the total extent you have purchased?

A.—I have purchased 50 acres for Rs. 1,300, 4 acres for Rs. 200, 4 acres for Rs. 300, 3 acres for Rs. 200, and another 3 acres for Rs. 200.

Q.—What is the cost of digging a well?

A.—I may require Rs. 4,000 for constructing a well measuring 1,200 square feet (40 feet x 30 feet).

Q.—Do you irrigate cotton crops?

A.—Yes, with the aid of water-lift and oil engine.

Q.—Is there any change in this rate?

A.—Fourteen annas has been the rate for a very long time. Then it became Rs. 2-2-0 and Rs. 3-4-0 at the time of the assignment of waste lands. It has not been enhanced further. The assessment is not levied for this as in the case of the assigned land in the neighbourhood. They have indeed levied an increased rate even in the first instance.

Q.—Has not the assessment been enhanced?

A.—They levy Rs. 2-2-0 only for having assigned the waste land.

Q.—Have you petitioned the Collector?

A.—Even the filing of a suit in the Court was of no avail. In the Revenue office too, things are proving disadvantageous to me. It is only the rate of 14 annas that has been subsequently changed into Rs. 2-4-0. If we go there at 10 a.m., they will summon us only at 8 or 9 p.m.

Q.—Are things done even in the High Court only in a manner favourable to the Zamindar?

A.—I say in my own way that it is so.

Witness No. 168.

Trichinopoly.

8th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. M. K. R. Mariappa Pillai, Kilapagadai village, Kadavur zamin.

The witness read a manuscript statement of the grievances of the ryots in the zamin and filed the same. He filed also some permits for felling trees from patta lands.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you any lands?

A.—I have.

Q.—Is the patta in your name?

A.—It is in the name of my elder brother.

Q.—What is the extent of the land?

A.—About 150 kulis.

Q.—What is the kist?

A.—It may be about Rs. 100 or Rs. 150.

Q.—How much of it is dry and how much of it is wet?

A.—The wet land may measure about 50 or 60 kulis. The rest is dry land.

Q.—Who prepared this statement?

A.—It is I that prepared it. It is my handwriting. I wrote it myself. I have passed the karnam test. I know all the village affairs.

Q.—How many villages are there in your zamin?

A.—There are 16 villages.

Q.—What do you know of the other tenants apart from your own grievances?

A.—I know their affairs well. Many tenants have come here. There is certainly a great dispute in regard to this matter.

Q.—Does your father own any land?

A.—He is keeping a farm separately. He is not with us. I have two brothers; we are living separately.

Q.—Has your father submitted an insolvency petition?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What happened to it?

A.—I do not know what happened to it.



Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have all the tenants joined together and represented their grievances in the statement submitted by you?

A.—Yes. All of us have joined together and represented our grievances.

Q.—Do you give any perquisites?

A.—We have to give the zamindar one sheep for each cattle fold. If we do not, he is enraged and this results in hardship to the tenants. All sorts of unjust assessments are levied.

Q.—When do you give it?

A.—It is usual to give it on festive occasions like Dipavali, Pongal, etc.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You have stated that you do not know how much land your father has or what happened to his insolvency petition. While so, how do you know anything about these zamin tenants?

A.—My father used to visit us occasionally as he liked. We do not pay any attention to what he does. He comes to the village once in a way and I do not know where he takes his food or where he sleeps. He stays mostly in Trichinopoly and Manapparai. Everybody knows that he never stays in the village. The tenants remain in the village itself. Everybody is aware of the hardships experienced by the people in general. I have mentioned all our grievances in the statement only after consulting all the tenants.

Q.—Have you preferred any complaint to the Collector?

A.—I have not complained to the Collector. The people do not complain to the Collector because they fear that, if they do so, the zamin officials will give them greater trouble on that ground.

Q.—What is the price of land in your village?

A.—The price of dry land varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per kuli. In the case of a second-class land, it varies from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per kuli. The price of a piece of land on which three crops can be raised or of a paddy field varies from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per kuli.

Q.—How many acres make one kuli?

A.—Sixty-six cents make one kuli.

Q.—Is the kist in your zamin really exorbitant?

A.—It is indeed exorbitant.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—You said that an unjust tax was levied for water. What do you say in support of it?

A.—When there is good rain, water comes up by itself in dry lands. If we irrigate the lands with this water, they levy water-cess therefor. If we dam the water which flows through the forest, they levy a tax for it. When the rain-water in dry forests flows from a higher level to a lower level, we dam it in order to prevent it from washing away the lands. When we do so, they levy a tax. We should have the right to utilize that water. We may consent to the levy of tax if water is taken from a permanent source of irrigation. It is unjust to levy a tax for damming the water which overflows. If the Government levy that tax, it will at least be uniform. It is unjust for the zamindar to levy the tax as he likes.

Q.—Is it not a fact that they levy the tax only on the water flowing from the zamin forest?

A.—No. The rain falls also on private patta lands. When the rain-water flows from a higher level to a lower level, the owners of the respective lands dam that water. When they do so, a tax is levied. Why should the rain-water belong only to the zamindar? We only ask that it should belong to us also.

Q.—You referred to measurement by a shorter chain. What is that?

A.—When the zamin was under the management of the Court of Wards, the lands were measured with the Government chain and these measurements had been noted. Then they made another measurement. According to this measurement, the extent of a piece of land, which originally measured 16 acres, has been noted as 20 acres. The people have not made any encroachment on other lands. But the area alone has been shown as being more and they have levied a tax for the excess portion also. That is why I said that the measurement had been made by a shorter chain. We request that the measurement may be made with a chain of the correct length as was done when the zamin was under the Court of Wards and the rent settled accordingly.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the area noted in the patta?

A.—The measurement noted in the patta is only that made with the shorter chain. The extent of a piece of land measuring 40 kulis has been shown as 46 kulis and assessment has been levied accordingly. When the Court of Wards measured it, they used the



correct chain. As it has now been measured with a shorter chain, the area is found to be more. Hence we have to pay an additional tax. The rate of kist is already high. If, in addition to this, the measurement also is faulty, how can the tenants thrive?

Q.—Was any action taken against you for arrears of rent?

A.—A case was launched against me in the Magistrate's Court, Kulittalai, for having harvested dihol crop which was under distraint. It was then compounded and I paid the assessment.

(Witness filed two documents—pattas showing increase of extent and taxes from year to year.)

Witness No. 169.

Trichinopoly.

8th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Nataraja Mudaliyar of Elayur, Udaiyarpalaiyam Zamin.**

While this witness was being examined, a lawyer from Udaiyarpalaiyam wanted to intervene and make certain representations to supplement the statements made by the witness.

The CHAIRMAN: For your benefit and for the benefit of others here, I may say that this Committee is not expected to examine all the lakhs and lakhs of tenants that are available and that may have got some grievances or other. We do not want to shut out any witness; but at the same time, those who have come from Udaiyarpalaiyam, if they have anything to state here, may kindly wait. They cannot be impatient. We have come here to know certain things, and we are anxious to take as much as possible from the people who can say something, but not from others who come either as their representatives or as proxies.

LAWYER: I only wanted to represent what I feel in the matter; they have all been waiting here for the past three days.

The CHAIRMAN: We have been asking all people to come forward; we want more evidence from their lips than from others who may be their legal representatives. Even in other places, we took the people direct on hand, even when deputations came to us. Therefore, may I request you to sit with them for a few minutes and select the best of them who can say something here? As a matter of fact, till now I did not know they were all waiting here. Now that you have told us so, please select the best of them.

WITNESS: The zamindar did not provide any facilities to the ryots when there were floods in the year 1913. It is only the Government that rendered the necessary help to the ryots when they were penniless and when they were suffering much after having lost their houses and other belongings.

A dam should be constructed so that floods may not occur again and cause them distress. All matters concerning irrigation should be under the control and supervision of the Government.

Witness No. 175.

Trichinopoly.

9th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. B. Gopalachari, son of Mr. Balakrishna Ayyangar, Inam Ryot of Umayalpuram village, Papanasam taluk, Tanjore district.**

Umayalpuram village is an inam village enjoying the melvaram right. It is under the control of the District Board. I am a ryot of that village. They have told you about the amani system. But it has not been made clear. There is something more to be said. They are observing the amani system. The ryot has to cultivate his land, harvest the crop after informing the authorities, finish harvesting quickly and thresh the harvest for obtaining the net produce. But we have to await their order. We have to take home for food the paddy heaped up in the fields. They do not permit this. They take away one-half of the gross income. The ryot is unable to bear it. This practice should be abolished and any other facilities should be provided.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Do you say that the amani system should not be followed?

A.—Yes.

Witness continues: The common expenses are not deducted. They pay wages for the watchman in their own interest. No deduction is made in this village for the services of the barber, the blacksmith and the carpenter. The major portion of the ryots' income goes away as assessment.



Q.—Have such collections been made in your inam village?

A.—There are many inconveniences as stated in the muchalika. No facilities are provided. We are executing muchalika for a period of five years or ten years. The 1348 fasli is coming to a close. They will do anything only if they have mercy.

Q.—What do you want?

A.—If any good is to be done to us, the ryotwari system should be introduced.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you pay rent?

A.—We pay exactly one-half. A muchalika is executed on this basis.

Q.—Who pays the water-rate?

A.—They want to burden us with the water-rate. There is an arrangement for paying water-rate to the Government if there is good collection. We pay it as 'thaladi.' We do not pay 'thitta-thaladi' for a single crop cultivation. We do not pay it even in the case of a double crop cultivation. If a second crop is raised on a single crop land, water rate is paid to the Government. We pay it.

Q.—Do they demand 'kanganam'?

A.—We are executing muchalikas.

Q.—Do you plough the lands yourself or do you engage a farm labourer?

A.—We ourselves cultivate the lands.

Q.—Do you pay wages?

A.—We pay wages in the form of paddy. We are adopting the system of making monthly payments.

Q.—Do you lease out your lands?

A.—Persons having 100 acres lease out their lands, unable to manage them. Most of the people cultivate their lands themselves. Those that are employed lease out their lands, as they have other sources of income.

Witness continues: The lands in this village were covered up with sand in 1924 when there was a breach in the Cauveri and they were consequently rendered unfit for cultivation.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have 3 acres of land.

Witness continues: It has been lying waste from 1924 to 1938. They did not demand any assessment. When I remove the sand and improve the land at my own expense, they demand 'amani' for the land from which the sand has been removed. If I get 10 kalams from this land, it will be just sufficient for my livelihood. They say that I should pay them amani in respect of it. Should they not agree to incur the above expenses? When I have improved the land at my own cost, they demand melvaram. They also demand water-tax in addition to melvaram.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are there any arrears in the fasli?

A.—They have collected the rent for faslis 1345 and 1346.

Q.—What relief do you want?

A.—It is difficult to pay amani. They should be made to give up that demand. We should not be burdened with the water-cess.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You said that a thaladi assessment was levied. Does the proprietor demand one-half of the produce?

A.—It does not come to one-half. We pay only the water-cess.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you pay a share of the produce?

A.—We do not pay it now. There will be trouble after the end of fasli 1348

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—How many velis have you?

A.—I have 17 acres of wet land and 16 acres of dry land.

Q.—How many kalams does an acre yield? Do you pay exactly one-half? How many kalams do you pay? How many kalams did you pay last year?

A.—They took 16 kalams per acre. Now they are taking 13 kalams.

Q.—What is its value?

A.—It comes to Rs. 20 per acre.

Q.—Is there an ayan village in the neighbourhood?

A.—There is. It is in the 'heart of the village.' It is only the next plot. The kist there is Rs. 8. In my village, the assessment for a first crop and a second crop is Rs. 8 and Rs. 4 giving a total of Rs. 12.

Q.—Are you paying Rs. 20 now?

A.—You may take it as Rs. 17 or Rs. 18.



Q.—Lands under the amani system are lying waste. If they are cultivated, what assessment will they levy?

A.—They will levy a rate based on the yield in the adjacent lands. The terms of the patta are such. The lands cannot be kept waste.

Q.—Is the rate very low in ayan villages?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In the ryotwari areas, a remission of 2 annas or 4 annas in the rupee was granted for the last 4 or 5 years. Do the zamin authorities grant such remission?

A.—They grant remission. We have to pay the rent within the stipulated date. Otherwise there is no remission.

Witness No. 176.

Trichinopoly.

9th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Pasupatilingam Pillai, son of Chidambaram Pillai, Tenant and Karnam, Mavattur village, Kadavur zamin, Kulittalai taluk.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Do you appear on behalf of the zamindar?

A.—I am appearing on behalf of both the zamindar and the tenants.

Q.—Do you belong to the Kadavur estate?

A.—Mavattu village, Kadavur zamin.

Q.—What is the state of affairs in the estate now?

A.—I have come here to explain in detail what was deposed regarding the question of measurement in this zamin. Measurement is made in the zamin with the 80 feet chain. The area is the same whether it is measured with the survey chain which is a 66 feet chain or with a 80 feet chain. If the measurement made in fasli 213 is converted into kulis the measurement will be found to be correct. There is no difference in the measurements made then and now. Hence there is no change in the matter of measurement. There is no change in the matter of assessment. There was no change in the assessment in fasli 213.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Are they keeping a 80 feet chain separately?

A.—The 80 feet chain has been in use from the very beginning.

Q.—All people have the links chain. Why should they not keep a similar chain? It is preferable to use only the 100 links chain. That indeed is the practice. Why should they not follow this practice now?

A.—There is nothing wrong in doing so. It has been in vogue even at that time.

Q.—The 100 links chain is used all over the world. But the 80 feet chain is used in your zamin?

A.—We calculate the area only in terms of kulis.

Q.—Is a kuli equal to 80 feet?

A.—A kuli is 50 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents.

Q.—The measurement which you speak of will not be understood by the villagers. They will understand only the measurements expressed in acres?

A.—The acre measurement cannot be adopted in practice.

Q.—I suppose there is no difficulty in changing the chain measurement into acre measurement?

A.—No.

Q.—Why is it not changed?

A.—There is no one to question it.

Q.—So, you are keeping it as it is without changing it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What do they enter in the patta?

A.—They express the measurement in terms of kulis as 1 kuli,  $\frac{1}{2}$  kuli,  $\frac{1}{4}$  kuli, etc., the paimash account.

At this stage, witness read a statement prepared by him in Tamil regarding the conditions prevailing in the Kadavur zamin village, Mavattur and filed the same.

After filing this statement, the witness began to read another statement written on a piece of paper. The witness, when asked as to whether the statement read out by him was his, said that it was not his statement and that the piece of paper had been handed over to him by some one of the Vellappatti village to be read out before the Chairman and that it was written by the Revenue Inspector.



This statement written by the Revenue Inspector and read out by the witness Mr. Pasupatilingham Pillai was also filed.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Is the allegation true?

A.—There is nothing false in it. It is true.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are you a karnam with 25 years' experience?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose that bribery has ceased now as a result of the order issued by the estate authorities?

A.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How many years is it now since it ceased?

A.—It is now 10 or 12 years. It has not been in evidence from the time when the zamindar attained his majority.

Q.—Have they put an end to the taking of bribes?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—I suppose there is no bribery after the issue of the order by the estate authorities?

A.—No.

Q.—What tax do they collect in the forest?

A.—They collect assessment.

Q.—Do they collect tax for cattle?

A.—If they graze on the hills.

Q.—Does forest mean hill?

A.—It means only hill.

Q.—What is the difference between a forest and a hill?

A.—The elevated place is the hill and the waste land which is in the occupation of the tenants is the forest.

Q.—What is the rate?

A.—Four annas or eight annas for the forest.

Q.—I suppose you do not know anything about the collection of tax?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose you do not know anything about the collection in other villages?

A.—No.

Q.—Is the person who gave evidence yesterday a tenant of your village?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there bribery in your village?

A.—Bribes are not taken in all villages.

Q.—Do you suggest that a survey is necessary?

A.—They have stated that there is no harm in making a survey. The Court of Wards too have said like this.

Q.—Have you given a petition that a survey is not necessary?

A.—No. We did not file any petition.

Q.—Is it the practice in your village to use two chains?

A.—One chain measures 80 feet.

Q.—Which chain was in use originally?

A.—The 80 feet chain.

Q.—Now?

A.—The 66 feet chain. There is no difference when the land is measured with the 80 feet chain. I have specifically stated that there is no difference.

Q.—Is not one acre equal to 100 cents?

A.—The area is the same even when it is measured with the 80 feet chain.

Q.—What is your pay?

A.—Eight rupees.

Q.—Who collects the tax?

A.—The munsif and I together collect it.

Q.—I suppose there is no separate patta-monigar?

A.—The village munsif.

Q.—Do they pay the cost of establishment?

A.—They do not pay anything.

Q.—Were they receiving it formerly?

A.—Re. 1-0-6.



Q.—For how many years?

A.—For eight years. They stopped it after the estate came under the management of the Court of Wards.

Q.—Were they collecting it before that period?

A.—Yes. Now it has been stopped.

Q.—I suppose that, if you want to collect wood from the forest, you can do so only after obtaining a permit?

A.—Yes. We can collect it without a permit for our own use. A permit is necessary if it is to be taken to other places.

Q.—I suppose they do not issue permits without charging fees?

A.—No.

Q.—If it is stated that there is no interest, was it remitted that year?

A.—We have not filed anything here for the last 4 or 5 years.

Q.—You said that 10 or 15 cases had been instituted. Have you filed anything?

A.—No.

Q.—Is it merely a conjecture?

A.—Yes. I have not brought any evidence.

Q.—Do you cultivate the lands yourself?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many kanis?

A.—Thirty acres. I pay a rent of 50 rupees.

Q.—Is the land cultivated by you?

A.—The whole of it is cultivated by me.

Q.—I suppose you never leased out your lands directly?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose you cannot say that you leased out your land directly?

A.—I have not leased out any of my own lands.

Q.—Did you file any record showing the persons who had leased out their lands or do you merely make a verbal statement?

A.—I am making only an oral statement.

Q.—You stated that you had sold dry land for 15 rupees. Have you filed the sale deeds?

A.—No.

Q.—You say something regarding the lands about which I questioned you. Is it correct?

A.—It is based only on the accounts. It is correct.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Has the estate been surveyed?

A.—Kuli account and paimash account.

Q.—If, as a result of survey, any portion is found to be in excess, how will it be disposed of?

A.—The zamindar should assign it to the tenants.

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the value of the stamp used when land is distrained?

A.—I do not know the value of the stamps affixed under the new Act. It is said in the estate that the stamps cost Rs. 15. I do not know it personally.

Q.—You said that it would cost Rs. 15. Did you say so with reference to the estate accounts?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the tax on fruit-trees?

A.—It is As. 5-4 for a tamarind tree, As. 5-4 for a mango tree, and As. 5-4 for a jack tree.

Q.—For what trees do they levy a tax?

A.—They are collecting the tax levied formerly.

Q.—If a tree has withered and if no report is sent about it, it will certainly continue to remain in the patta?

A.—Such is the state of affairs and the tax has been collected even in such a case.

Q.—You referred to the rate of grazing fees. What is that?

A.—It is four annas or six annas.

Q.—Do you not know the practice existing in other villages?

A.—I do not know that in hilly tracts. There is no hill in my village.



Q.—Is it not difficult to maintain accounts in the absence of a survey?

A.—Since it is a routine matter, there is no difficulty.

Q.—Will it not be convenient if a survey is made?

A.—It will be convenient.

Q.—I suppose it will be convenient for the tenants also?

A.—It is indeed necessary.

Q.—I suppose survey is necessary for the tenants?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose the absence of a survey causes inconvenience?

A.—It will be very convenient if a survey is made.

Q.—I suppose that, if once the matter comes up before the court, there will certainly be trouble?

A.—Yes, as no survey has been made.

Q.—Can you definitely say where a particular piece of land is situated?

A.—No.

Q.—Only a clever person can say that. A new karnam cannot understand the situation. Is it not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Only experienced men can understand it. Inexperienced men cannot understand it. Is it not?

A.—Yes. But one can understand it with the help of the 'adangal' and the 'paimash.'

Q.—What are the taxes that are levied in your village in addition to land-tax?

A.—Apart from paying the land-tax, we have to pay a tax for grazing our cattle and fees for the grant of a permit for collecting fuel. They levy a tax on trees.

Q.—Is there an establishment tax?

A.—There is no such tax now. Usually it was paid to the village officers. They were giving it as a present.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What is the amount that was usually paid?

A.—It was usual to pay half-anna per rupee. It belonged to us. It was a present.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Please furnish a list?

A.—They used to pay at the rate of half an anna.

Q.—How was it shared by you and the others?

A.—They were paying it gratis to the village officers.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—The payment of this amount depends on the pleasure of the tenants. Is that what you say?

A.—They used to receive it if the tenants pay it.

Q.—Does this not amount to taking bribes?

A.—It is a customary payment.

Q.—Has it been excluded from 'bribe'?

A.—They have ordered therein that it should not be received.

Q.—Have they excluded the amount which you were receiving at the rate of half an anna per rupee?

A.—They have stated that we should not receive it.

Q.—Have you a copy of the order?

A.—No. It is in my village.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they pay it of their own accord?

A.—Yes.

Q.—When are the pattas transferred? Is it done during the jamabandi?

A.—On receipt of an application an enquiry is made and the transfer effected.

Q.—Is there a register?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have you filed anything about the transfer of pattas?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose that, if a patta is to be transferred, they will transfer it only after consulting you?

A.—They will transfer it only after consulting us and considering our recommendation.



Q.—Into how many classes have they divided lands? What is the assessment per acre?

A.—Dry lands, garden lands and wet lands. The maximum rate per acre is Rs. 5 and the minimum rate is Rs. 2-12-0. The minimum rate for dry lands is 12 annas.

Q.—When sugarcane is cultivated, what is the assessment on land?

A.—Half the assessment on land should be added.

Q.—What is the assessment when paddy is cultivated?

A.—Only the garden rate is levied.

Q.—What is the assessment when groundnut is cultivated?

A.—The dry rate is levied if it is cultivated on dry lands and the garden rate is levied if it is cultivated on garden lands. There is no cropwar assessment.

Q.—Does the assessment vary from year to year in the patta?

A.—It does not vary.

Q.—What is the assessment levied if waste land is brought under cultivation?

A.—Enhanced rate of assessment is levied.

Q.—For waste land?

A.—A low rate of assessment is levied.

Q.—What is the assessment levied if no crop is raised on waste land?

A.—If land is left waste, the assessment varies from 2 annas and 6 pies to 4 annas. The minimum assessment is 12 annas per kuli.

Q.—Is there an ayan village in the neighbourhood?

A.—There is.

Q.—Which village do the tenants who came now belong to?

A.—They do not belong to my village. They are zamin tenants.

Q.—Are not the lands of the tenants irrigated by the tank?

A.—No. There is such irrigation in the zamindar's pannai.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How far is your village from here?

A.—Forty miles.

Q.—When did you come?

A.—I came yesterday.

Q.—Did you come here?

A.—No.

Q.—For what purpose have you come?

A.—I have come here to give evidence before the Committee.

Q.—Did you receive a notice?

A.—No.

Q.—On whose behalf have you come?

A.—I have come on behalf of both the zamindar and the tenants.

Q.—Have you not come on behalf of the tenants?

A.—I have come also on behalf of the tenants.

Q.—From the time you appeared before us, you have not said anything on behalf of the tenants?

A.—I have said something.

Q.—The written statement which you read out does not appear to have mentioned the hardship of the tenants?

A.—The distraint of lands is very much in evidence. I suggest that it should be minimized.

Q.—You have not spoken about the hardships of the zamin agriculturists?

A.—No.

Q.—You have not come forward to say that you could not remain as tenants in the zamin?

A.—There is no trouble for the tenants in the zamin. I have not come forward to speak about it.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Who pays your salary?

A.—The Government pays it.

Q.—What pay do you get in the zamin?

A.—I am working as a karnam in the zamin.



Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—The tenants and the zamindars are two different classes of people. The Committee is enquiring into the relationship between the tenants and the zamindars. Only tenants should speak on behalf of the tenants and the zamindar should speak about matters pertaining to him. You have come on behalf of the zamindar. Where is the need for you to appear for the zamindar?

A.—As it has been stated that the assessment has been enhanced, I have come to say something about that.

“The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: ‘The witness is a village officer. He can speak anything. Everybody is trying to do public service.’ Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja remarked that he wanted to know exactly on whose behalf he had come there.”

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Who gave it to you for being read out?

A.—It was written by the Revenue Inspector.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—I suppose you refer only to the Revenue Inspector of the estate?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Did you read only that?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Please hand over the paper which you read?

A.—No. I have filed it.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is what is stated therein true?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ask him to write it for you?

A.—No.

Q.—Are the tenants who have come here zamin tenants?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any faction in the village?

A.—No.

Q.—I suppose there are no hardships for the tenants?

A.—They are leading a happy life. The relationship between the zamindar and the tenants is cordial.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do the zamindar and the tenants get on smoothly?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You have said that, if a survey is made, it will be convenient for you. Do you mean Government survey?

A.—Yes. There should be only Government survey.

Q.—Who do you say should reasonably bear the cost of survey?

A.—The Government and the zamindar should bear it.

Q.—I suppose it is not proper on any account to ask the tenants to pay it?

A.—Yes. They do not have money.

Q.—Some people say that the survey may be made through the panchayat. It will not be done properly. Is it not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—They are levying a tax on tamarind trees. Is it not advisable to levy a tax so far as these trees are concerned?

A.—It will be better if no such tax is levied.

Q.—Has no remission been granted ever since the estate was formed?

A.—No. They used to grant remission of ultirvai.

Q.—Of which village are you the karnam?

A.—I am the karnam of Mavathur.

Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have about 30 to 35 acres. I am also a ryot

Q.—Do you experience any trouble in the estate?

A.—I do not experience any trouble except that which results from the lands not having been surveyed.

Q.—What is the demand in Mavathur?

A.—Rs. 5,100 and odd.

Q.—Are there arrears in fasli 1344?

A.—No.



Q.—In fasli 1346?

A.—There may be some arrears.

Q.—Are suits instituted for the collection of arrears?

A.—Suits are never instituted. The ryots will easily pay the dues of their own accord.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are cattle and movable properties distrained?

A.—Yes. There may be one or two such cases in a year. There will not be many cases of distraint.

Q.—Is interest charged for arrears?

A.—No.

Q.—If lands are distrained, are they sold?

A.—Sometimes they are sold.

Q.—What is the price of lands?

A.—Dry lands sell at Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 per kani. Garden lands sell at Rs. 100 to Rs. 150. Wet lands sell at Rs. 150 to Rs. 250.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Do you know what the arrear of rent in fasli 1340 is?

A.—There are no arrears up to fasli 1342.

Q.—Are there no arrears up to date?

A.—Perhaps there may be a few cases of arrears.

Q.—In how many cases were distraint proceedings taken?

A.—In about 10 or 20 cases. The arrears were realized by the distraint of movable properties and produce. But suits were not instituted in courts.

Q.—I suppose the interest also is collected?

A.—Ordinarily it is not collected. But if the matter is taken to court, then the interest also is added.

Q.—I suppose that, if a survey is made, it will be necessary to make a settlement and prepare a record of rights?

A.—Yes. It will be beneficial to the tenants only if the lands are surveyed and a record is prepared.

Mr. Pasupathilingam Pillai, a zamin ryot of Mavathur village, Kadavur zamin, was giving evidence. While giving evidence he was reading from a small letter which was written by another gentleman regarding the condition of his village.

This witness was cross-examined by Mr. Kumaraswami Raja. In the course of the cross-examination he asked the witness as to whether he came in the capacity of a zamin tenant or on behalf of the zamindar. He replied that he was giving evidence as a man interested both in the welfare of the zamindar as well as the welfare of the ryots. Then Mr. Kumaraswami Raja said 'The zamindar by himself or through his representative can look after his interests; why should you come and say that you are giving evidence in the interests of the zamindar' (all this happened in Tamil).

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : I protest against the way in which this witness is treated. If a witness is frightened like this no more witnesses will come and give their evidence as to what is actually taking place in zamindari areas.

The CHAIRMAN (turning to Mr. Kumaraswami Raja) : Why should you ask him like that? I have already told the Committee that anybody can come and give evidence on behalf of anybody.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : If the witness had said that he was speaking on behalf of the zamindar, I would not have asked him like this. I simply wanted to elicit information as to whether he was a set-up witness and on whose behalf he was really giving evidence. If this is termed as 'unfair,' there are several other things which are being done here which can be called most unfair.

The CHAIRMAN : Even yesterday I told that witnesses can come and give evidence on behalf of anybody or both for the cause of the zamindar as well as the ryots. We have not issued invitations to every one personally but issued a general invitation to all.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : There is no objection to his giving evidence on behalf of the zamindar. The Committee tried to point out that he was prompted by the zamindar to give evidence.

The CHAIRMAN : Any person may come and give evidence. Mr. Kumaraswami Raja should not have said like that. Let us not pursue this controversy further.

Then Mr. Chokkalingam Pillai, karnam, Kadavur zamin, came and said that paper under controversy was written by him and there was nothing wrong about it. This



witness was not further examined as the zamindar himself was going to be examined later. But at the instance of the zamindar he was asked to speak with reference to the chit from which the previous witness was reading when he was giving evidence. Then this Chokkalingam Pillai withdrew."

Witness No. 177.

Trichinopoly.

9th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Muthukannu Udaiyar, Khair-ul-abad, Ariyalur.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What do you want to say?

A.—The name of my village is Aminabad. Konerirayapuram and Khair-ul-abad are both zamin villages. I have four acres of land in the ayan village of Aminabad. I have lands also in Konerirayapuram and Khair-ul-abad of Ariyalur zamin. Aminabad is a Government village bearing the No. 116. The assessment on dry land there is 14 annas per acre. Here is the patta. It contains everything in detail. The assessment in respect of the zamin village is Rs. 12. I have sunk a well at my own expense. We have also dug a pond at the expense of the villagers. Not even a single pie was given by the zamin authorities for these works. In spite of that, they have classified our lands as wet and have levied assessment at the rate of Rs. 12. The assessment in respect of dry lands is Rs. 5-8-0 or Rs. 6. The lowest rate is Rs. 3-8-0. There is no rate lower than this.

Q.—Is this the mamul rate?

A.—I am 55 years old. The present rate is very exorbitant. They have raised the rate like this only in the course of the last fifteen years.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have you filed any old patta?

A.—I have a patta. But I have not brought it here. I shall file it whenever it is required.

Q.—Is there grazing ground for cattle?

A.—There are some lands. They have granted pattas in respect of all of them. If the cattle stray accidentally into the adjoining lands, they seize them and take them away and collect fines therefor. Every year a sheep should be given for each patta. Whenever there is a temple festival, fowls have to be supplied to them. If we raise any objection to this, we are subjected to much hardship in this manner. The village officers are responsible for all this. There is no supply of drinking water. There was a tank during the time of our forefathers. It is now in a state of disrepair. We requested them ever-so-much to repair at least that tank; but it was all in vain.

Q.—Is there a public tank (zamin tank) in the village?

A.—There is none. If we construct wells and ponds at our own expense and draw water from them, they levy assessment even for such irrigation. The assessment they levy is unbearable.

Q.—Do they grant any remission?

A.—They have not granted any remission so far. Those in whom the karnam, the monigars and the zamin officials are interested may perhaps get some remission. No remission was ever granted to the other tenants.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you ever apply for the grant of remission?

A.—If we demand anything, they file a suit against us in the Collector's Court and collect the amount due from us together with the interest thereon and the court expenses. All these are causing much hardship to us. This hardship should be removed.

Q.—Will it be advantageous to you if the lands are surveyed?

A.—We will have no difficulty whatever if the Government themselves survey our lands and fix the assessment thereon. Even our women pay the assessment in respect of ayan lands without waiting for us. Not a little is the hardship to which we are subjected in the zamin in regard to the payment of the rent.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the income this year from the ayan village?

A.—We got 12 bags of maize, 2 bags of greengram, stubble, etc., from the ayan village.

Q.—For how much will they sell?

A.—Maize will sell for Rs. 50, gram for Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 and the stubble, etc., for Rs. 10 or Rs. 15.



Q.—What is the assessment?

A.—Rs. 3-8-0. If any suit is to be filed against us in respect of assessment, it should be filed in the panchayat court. If this course is adopted, there will not be much expenditure and trouble to the people. Further if, in our villages, the munsif or the karnam dies, the zamin officials even take Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 from certain persons saying that they would recommend their names for appointment to that post. All these should go. The Government themselves should appoint all these persons. The people will be benefited to a certain extent if the suggestions I have made are carried out.

Witness No. 178.

Trichinopoly.

9th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sabapathi Pillai, Kousirayapuram, headman,  
Kuruchinattam ryot.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Which is your place?

A.—My village is Kurichinattam. It belongs to the wife of the Zamindar of Ariyalur.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—How much land have you in the zamin?

A.—I have 6 kanis of wet and dry lands.

Q.—What is the assessment?

A.—On the whole I pay 27 rupees.

Q.—What is the rate of assessment?

A.—They have now enhanced the rate of assessment which was in force formerly.

Q.—Is the assessment in your place cropwar?

A.—Cowle assessment is in force in the whole of Kurichi village. There are several rates such as Rs. 3, Rs. 3-8-0, Rs. 5 and Rs. 7. Cowle rate means the rate of assessment that is levied without reference to the crop.

Q.—With effect from which fasli has the assessment been enhanced?

A.—It was the same for some time from the year 1887. It was Re. 1-5-6 up to fasli 1313 or 1314. During the time of Mr. Viraragava Ayyangar who was the proprietor thereafter, cowle rate was changed into purakkudi rate and an assessment of Rs. 7-3-6 was levied. It is only in accordance with this that the present proprietors too are granting pattas. If we cultivate cucumber, they levy additional assessment for it.

Q.—What more have you to say?

A.—The assessment in the zamin varies from Rs. 2-0-3 to Rs. 12-4-0. In the adjoining village of Samanyapakkam, the assessment on the same class of lands is only 14 annas. Remissions are not granted in these villages as in ayan villages. The assessment has to be paid whether there is yield or not. No expenditure was ever incurred or is being incurred for the benefit of these villages from out of the beriz collected therein. In the villages, no lands have been set apart as communal lands, pasture lands, etc. No repairs or fresh arrangements are made in respect of tanks, ponds, wells, etc., nor is any financial help given in respect of them. Such difficulties are being experienced in the whole of the Ariyalur zamin. We desire that suits involving not more than 50 rupees should be tried by the village panchayat itself. The filing of suits in Revenue Courts results in much expense and trouble to the tenants. If they are tried by the village courts themselves, the tenants will not have any worry or difficulty. The expense also will be much less. We desire that the villages should be surveyed and that assessment should be levied with reference to the settlement classification.

Q.—Is there any difficulty in regard to the transfer of pattas?

A.—Pattas are not easily transferred even if the parties submit applications. There are ever so many difficulties in regard to this matter.

Q.—How long do the pattas remain untransferred?

A.—Pattas remain untransferred for 10 or 15 years even after the submission of an application for their transfer.

Q.—What is the difficulty you experience if a patta remains untransferred and what is the benefit you derive if the same is transferred?

A.—If pattas remain untransferred, several difficulties will result. The assessment has to be paid at the same time in respect of several pattas. A patta may include the lands of many persons. If assessment is levied in respect of a patta as a whole, the tenants to whom that patta relates do not ordinarily know the amount that each of them



has to pay. If any of them does not pay an instalment of rent, all the persons to whom the patta relates are put to trouble. If one of them is in arrears, the properties of others are distrained and action is taken against them. This results in much expenditure. It is not possible even to state whether or not the lands belonging to the persons concerned are in their respective names. If pattas remain untransferred, it cannot be known who is enjoying a particular property. If pattas are granted regularly every year, it will be known who is enjoying a particular piece of land and what assessment he should pay thereon. It will also be easy to institute proceedings if any one has not paid the assessment and no hardship or expense will be caused to others on account of this. The transfer of pattas is advantageous to the tenants.

Witness No. 179.

Trichinopoly.

9th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Deva Goundar, Velayudhampalaiyam, Kadavur zamin.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What do you want to say?

A.—The zamin tenants experience much hardship. Our lands should be surveyed and permanently settled. The kist should be levied as in the case of ayan villages. There should be no taram assessment. Convenient arrangements should be made for splitting joint pattas into separate pattas. Even though the zamin authorities do not execute any repairs to the lakes and tanks, they do not refrain from levying taxes. They should not levy additional assessment if we cultivate our lands by constructing wells, etc., at our own expense. If we bring the waste grass land under cultivation, they levy an additional assessment therefor. If, after cultivating it once, we do not cultivate it again on the ground that there was no proper yield, they do not deduct the aforesaid assessment even in that case. They do not deduct it even when we submit a petition for this purpose. On rare occasions they reduce the assessment out of mercy. While collecting the kist from us, they take also an additional amount saying that it is intended for certain items of expenditure. All those items of expenditure should be reduced. The agriculturists are unable to utilize the trees on poramboke lands even in an emergency. They have to obtain a permit even for removing a twig from the tree. We have to obtain a permit even for cutting the trees on the patta lands. They levy a rent for the land and also a tax for the trees therein. We desire that a separate tax should not be levied for the trees.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—If, as a result of survey, it is found that the extent of a piece of land is in excess of that mentioned in the patta, what should be done in regard to that excess portion?

A.—The excess portion should also be assigned to the pattadar concerned free of cost. The pattadar has been paying the kist in respect of that excess portion also. In some villages, the village panchayatdars themselves have organized shandy markets. The zamindar himself takes the amount collected thereat. The Government pay to the village panchayats one-half of the collections realized in shandies held in ayan villages. Similarly, arrangement should be made in the zamins also for the payment of one-half of the shandy collections to the village panchayats.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Has this tax been in existence from the very beginning?

A.—It has been the same for some time. But so far as I know, they enhanced it some time ago. I do not know exactly when the rate was enhanced.

Q.—Have you any land? What is its extent?

A.—I have about 200 kulis consisting of wet, dry and garden lands and wells.

Q.—Which tank in your village is in a state of disrepair?

A.—There is no tank in our village. When it rains, there will be a supply of water for two or three days. If we irrigate our lands with this water, they levy a tax therefor. We only say that they should not do so. It will be proper to levy such a tax if there is a permanent irrigation source and if the lands are irrigated with the help of the water obtained therefrom. We only say that, in the absence of any such source, no tax should be levied for the irrigation of lands with rain-water.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You said that they were enhancing the tax. At what rate are they enhancing it?

A.—They go on enhancing it at the rate of 5, 6, 7 and 8 annas. It is not known what for they are enhancing it. An examination of the pattas of the last four years will disclose that there is an increase of 6 or 8 annas in the rate of assessment for the



last year. The extent remains the same. But we notice only an increase in the rate when the patta is issued. The tax which was Rs. 5 in the last fasli becomes Rs. 5½ in this fasli.

Q.—Have you any records in support of this?

A.—I have not brought them here. But there are records.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You say that they levy enhanced assessment. Is it not a fact that they do so only if a larger extent of land is cultivated?

A.—There is no increase in the extent of cultivation. Year after year we are cultivating the same extent of land. When we look at the patta, we find that the assessment has been increased.

Witness No. 182.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. M. K. Sivalingam of Palayapalaiyam, Namakkal taluk.

We sent a memorandum on 29th November 1937, through the Salem District Mitta Ryots' Association. I belong to the Palayapalaiyam Mitta. The owners of the land should be only the tenants. They should have the ancient hereditary rights. The mittadars should not have any rights whatever. The mittadars say that under the existing Estates Land Act, they are the proprietors of the soil. It is my opinion that it should not be so. The assessment should be determined with reference to the classification of the land, its nature, the condition of the labourers in that place and the irrigation facilities. There should be a provision in the Board's Standing Orders for granting remission, when crops fail on account of floods, famine or insect pests. The provision should be statutory. A complete survey should be made in every village. The expenses incurred therefor should be borne only by the mittadars and the tenants should not be burdened with these expenses. The method of collecting the assessment should be revised. They now appoint officials known as pattamonigars. Hardship is caused as a result of such appointment. They appoint a pattamonigar for three months and appoint another for the next three months. This is quite common. Some persons say that they have paid the assessment to this man and some others say that they have paid it to the other man. This gives rise to dispute. (He shows a receipt.) If a receipt like this is given—90 per cent of the people are illiterate—what can they make out of it? This is the receipt issued to Mr. Vaithinatha Pillai. It is noted therein: 11 annas for No. 110 for fasli 1343; Rs. 2-14-2 for No. 130. It is not known from this what the arrear is. If the tenants know how much is in arrears, they will pay it. Many of these are joint pattas. No pattas have been granted. Properties or other things should not be distrained for arrears of land revenue. Only the produce should be distrained.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is to be done when there is no yield?

A.—When there is no yield, remission should certainly be granted. When there is no yield, how can the tenant pay the assessment? The pattamaniyam system may be abolished and the system of appointing village munsifs as in the case of ayan villages may be introduced. They alone should collect the assessment. They are levying what is known as water-rate. Even though there is a supply of water only for 10 days, they levy it. No water-rate should thus be levied for a second crop. Water-rate may be levied if lands are irrigated with water for at least two-thirds of the period. They levy taxes on trees standing on patta lands. They levy taxes separately for lands and separately for trees. This is not just. In certain places they have been collecting the tax for a long time even on trees which have fallen. The mittadars say that paths and other porambokes, burial ground and communal lands belong to them and sell them. They should not be sold. They should belong to the tenants. There are common tanks in certain mittas. They have arranged for the issue of pattas in their own names. They have effected a settlement for the tanks on the basis of the irrigation of the ayacut. It is proper that only those possessing wet lands in the ayacut should pay the assessment on the tanks. Space should be provided for grazing cattle. Now they are having pattas for the tanks in their own names.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they cultivate them?

A.—Some persons cultivate them or graze only their own cattle there. A case arose in the Piranthaka mitta and it was filed in the Collector's office. A judgment was passed that the Zamindar should not carry on cultivation in that place. ('A copy of the judgment was produced.') Such tanks should be common to the village. Jamabandi should be conducted every year. Pattas should be transferred every year. As jamabandis are not conducted, they never effect transfer of pattas. The tenants have even submitted petitions in regard to this matter and sent the same by registered post. ('He produces



some papers regarding registered notices sent.') There has been no reply for these petitions. As soon as a document is registered, it used to be sent from the office of the Sub-Registrar for effecting a transfer of patta. That is to say, we send all the papers necessary for effecting a transfer of patta even at the time of sale and registration. I have sent them at my own cost. A partition deed was executed in my favour. I submitted all the necessary petitions. I did everything. I did not get anything. It is 70 years since pattas were granted in Palayapalaiyam. There are more than 1,000 ryots. There are five voters. There are only five persons qualified to vote in the capacity of pattadars. It may be said that even the right of man is denied to him on account of the pattas not being transferred. If we pay the money to the mittadar, that is to the pattamonigar, he refuses to receive it. Even if we send a money order, they return it declining to receive it. There have been some cases concerning the dispute between the mittadars and the tenants in Piranthakam, regarding the tank.

Q.—Why should they say that they do not want money?

A.—There is no reply. They return it saying that they do not want it. It is written 'refused.' The idea is that a suit should be instituted and the amount recovered with costs. Arunachala Gounder and Arunachala Gounder are the joint mittadars of the Piranthakam mitta. A suit was filed for the grant of a patta and the mittadar filed a suit in the Deputy Collector's Court for the recovery of arrears. It was contended that it was not in accordance with section 112. Finally it was decided that the mittadar should pay 3 rupees towards damages.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—'You own lands?'

A.—'I own lands.' There are some tenants under the pattadars. There is no connection whatever between them and the mittadars. It is my opinion that the relationship should remain only as it is.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you say that the kudivaram right should be granted to the under-tenants or not?

A.—Of course, I say that the kudiwaram right should be granted to the under-tenants. But there should not be any connection whatever between them and the mittadar. The Board of Revenue need not decide the disputes between the Zamindars and the tenants. I say that there should be only civil courts for the purpose. There is encroachment in some places. If there are encroachments on poramboke lands, they may levy assessment at double the rates if they like. It is but proper to grant pattas in respect of them.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What else do they do there?

A.—They grant pattas to other persons in the zamin. On account of this disputes arise frequently. The tank, pond, poramboke, etc., which are required for the use of the public should belong to the tenants. There should be a village panchayat in every zamin. All these tanks, ponds, porambokes, etc., should be under the control of the panchayat.

The CHAIRMAN: What are illegal levies?

A.—They levy taxes such as grazing tax, etc.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Do they levy it without any cause?

A.—They have mentioned it in the receipt as grazing tax.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they levy it as fees for grazing cattle?

A.—They levy grazing tax. They levy it whether there are cattle or not. In the patta, they have noted it as grazing tax.

Q.—Is it for grazing in the forest?

A.—No. It is for grazing on patta lands. They should not levy any tax except land-tax. There is said to be a permanent settlement for sixty years in zamin areas and mitta areas. In mitta areas, the taxes are higher than those in ryotwari areas. Wet lands are only those that are irrigated by the tank. But the tank is not full at all times. Assessment has been levied at the rate of 12 or 13 rupees per acre. If there is no supply of water in a certain year, there is no remission. Hence, remission should be granted for the areas irrigated by the tank. I learn that an assessment varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7-8-0 is levied on wet lands in the neighbouring villages. They levy a compound assessment of 15 rupees for both the crops. In the zamin area, they levy an assessment of 12 rupees for a single crop. Low assessment should be levied as in the case of ryotwari villages. There should be statutory provision for remission.

Q.—Have they done any repair to the tanks?

A.—They have not done that so far. To my knowledge, they have not done any repair for the last 30 years. It is said in the village that they did not do any repairs even in the 30 years preceding the above period. Suits relating to arrears of assessment



below 50 rupees should be filed in the village courts. If a revenue suit is filed, the costs amount to Rs. 20 in respect of an arrear of 8 annas. Suits for amounts exceeding 50 rupees should be filed in revenue courts. I have heard that they filed a suit even for an arrear of one anna and collected 12 rupees as costs.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—They say that the tenants do not get justice if the suit is filed even in the District Munsif's Court, and that the decision is only in favour of the zamindars. While so, how can it be said that you can get justice in the village court?

A.—It may be said that justice will be meted out.

Q.—I ask whether the revenue court is not preferable if there is not much expense on account of stamps?

A.—It is indeed preferable. But they file the suits in the Deputy Collector's Court. Even there they make up matters. Supposing a suit is filed in the Court of the Deputy Collector, Namakkal, the Deputy Collector camps at a considerable distance. A farmer experiences great difficulty for going to that place. He does not have the means for going there. That is why I say that the suits should be filed in the village courts.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is a village court functioning there?

A.—I desire that a village court should be constituted in every village. It is the general opinion that this zamindari system should be abolished. It may be abolished by paying compensation to the zamindars.

Q.—Are the tenants prepared to purchase the rights of the zamindars?

A.—I suggest that the Government should purchase them. The tenants do not have the means to do so. Ninety per cent of them do not have even the means to provide themselves with food. Though these zamindars and mittadars pay one-half of the revenue to the Government, they enjoy the other half. They do not do anything for public welfare. A portion not exceeding 4 annas may be collected and given to each panchayat court for expenditure on such items as education, sanitation, etc. A separate grant from the Government need not be applied for. The necessary amount may be collected from the zamindars.

Q.—Do they levy anything in the name of makimai (i.e., contribution levied for a religious or charitable purpose)?

A.—No. They collect it as tax. In ryotwari villages facilities are provided. But here they are only collecting the tax. I ask why such facilities should not be provided for the people.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—In the co-operative banks, they have what is known as a common fund. Do you suggest that a similar fund should be set apart?

A.—Yes. It should be done under a statutory provision. The law should be suitably amended.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you say that the Government should collect the rent and that their agents should not do it?

A.—I suggest that the Government servants themselves should collect the rent from the tenants and pay to the zamindars what is due to them.

Q.—Do you say that the Government themselves should act as the agents of the zamindars and collect the rent?

A.—I do not say that the Government should act as the agents of the zamindars. I suggest that the village munsifs should collect the rent as in the ryotwari villages.

Q.—I suppose you are of opinion that only the collection of rent through the agency of the Government will be beneficial to the people?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are the tenants prepared to pay if a survey is made? Is there no way for the people themselves making the survey as in former days?

A.—It is not possible. It will not be suitable now.

Q.—You say that receipts are given irregularly. What remedy do you suggest for that? How should they be uniform?

A.—I say that the form of the receipt should be uniform.

Q.—Do you say that it should be intelligible to the poor people?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You say that the lands should not be distrained and that only the produce should be distrained. If they take away the produce of the year in question, will not the zamindar be obliged to wait till the next year?

A.—I suggest that the procedure adopted in the ryotwari villages may be followed.



Q.—Is it your opinion that it will be enough, if the situation obtaining in the ryotwari villages is reached?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You say that, if a tax is levied on patta lands, no tax should be levied on trees. What is to be done if trees are planted in the entire area?

A.—The tenant of course continues to pay the tax for the land.

Q.—Do they lease out the porambokes to others?

A.—They sell them.

Q.—Then why did you not take action?

A.—They sell the village-sites around the village and the poramboke in the town of Namakkal, saying that they belong to the Zamindar of Namakkal, and houses are constructed thereon.

Q.—Have the Government no right?

A.—They have no right whatever.

Q.—Have not the Government any right in regard to house-sites?

A.—They say that they have no right. They sell them saying that the Namakkal Union has no right.

Q.—I suppose you say that they should not sell them?

A.—Yes. I say that they should not sell them. They should not sell porambokes, funeral grounds, etc.

Q.—What do they do now with the funeral grounds?

A.—A zamindar has sold even the funeral ground.

Q.—Do they grant pattas in respect of tank-bunds?

A.—I do not say so. They carry on cultivation in the tanks.

Q.—What is that? How do they do it? Do they lease them out?

A.—In some mittas, they themselves cultivate them. In some others, they lease out a portion thereof to the tenants and enjoy the rest themselves.

Q.—What do you want to be done in regard to all these matters?

A.—We say that all these should be stopped.

Q.—Why did not the tenants object to them so far?

A.—If they raise any objection, the mittadar does not generally pay any heed to it. If action is to be taken through the court, the tenants should have the necessary means.

Q.—May a law be enacted now?

A.—I only say that a law should be enacted.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—If you do not have the means for preferring a complaint and if you keep quiet, what can a law do, even if one is enacted?

A.—A suit was filed in the civil court in regard to this matter and it was decided that those places belonged to the tenants.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Have the tenants no power to prevent the cultivation of the tank-bund?

A.—When it was prevented on a certain occasion, section 144 was applied.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do they apply section 144 for this purpose as a matter of course?

A.—They are indeed doing so.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What is the advantage of conducting a jama-bandi every year?

A.—If it is conducted every year, the assessment for each year can be known then and there.

Q.—Who should bear all the expenditure incurred in that connexion?

A.—In ryotwari villages, the villagers do not bear the cost. The mittadars alone should bear it. I have lands in ryotwari villages. I do not pay anything. We can make any complaint we like at the time of jamabandi.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You have stated that, in your zamin, the officials are collecting money unlawfully, that the zamindar is not aware of it and that, if he comes to know it, they will not do so. Is it true?

A.—I am not aware of it. It does not happen in our zamin. N. Ramaswami Reddiyar is the Secretary of the Association. There is no such practice in our zamin. It may be in vogue in some other zamins.

Q.—In which zamins?

A.—It is said that there is such a practice in some zamins. The Secretary knows the names of these zamins.



Witness No. 183.

Trichinopoly.

10th January 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Deva Kavandan of Kadavur.

I have lands measuring 150 kulis. I pay an assessment of 100 or 150 rupees. I am residing in Velayudhampalaiyam. The zamin lands should be surveyed permanently. The rent should not exceed 8 annas as is the case in ayan villages. The Zamindar should bear the cost of survey. Shandy poramboke, roads, etc., should belong only to the panchayat. In the zamin there is what is known as a private patta. They are conducting survey operations in respect of that patta. This should be done when the whole zamin is surveyed. They themselves are conducting the survey operations. They should not do so.

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Do you want that this should be done through the Government ?

A.—Yes.

The zamindars say that all the lands in the possession of tenants are theirs. If after measuring them they find any portion in excess, they claim it as their own. I say that patta should be granted to us in respect of such land free of cost. In the zamin tax is levied on tamarind trees, coconut trees and mango trees. Tax should not be levied separately for lands and separately for trees. No facilities whatever are afforded to us. They themselves should provide the ryots with sanitary and educational facilities. Arrangements should be made for separating the joint pattas.

THE CHAIRMAN : Q.—Is there a school in your village ?

A.—There is a panchayat board school. The hereditary rights should be abolished. The hereditary right which is now being enjoyed by village munsifs should be abolished. The village munsif should obey the orders of the panchayat court.

Witness No. 184.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. N. P. Karuppana Pillai of Kadavur.

The kist, which once was Rs. 6,000, has now become Rs. 12,000.

MR. B. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How many years before was it Rs. 6,000 ?

A.—Before 30 years.

THE ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Why has it increased ?

A.—They say that measurements were made formerly with long chains but are now being made with shorter ones. When we ask them to remit the fees for grass, they do not remit it.

Q.—How much of such grass land is there ?

A.—On all the four sides there are hills. The cattle belonging to the zamindar graze on the hills situated on the three sides. The hill on the fourth side is set apart for the grazing of cattle belonging to the tenants. Fines are levied if their cattle graze there.

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—How long have they been doing like this ?

A.—For the last 20 or 30 years. Before that period anybody can graze his cattle there.

Q.—I suppose no criminal case is launched ?

A.—No.

Witness No. 186.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. V. M. Palanivelu of Tusur, Namakkal taluk.

I live in the kasba of Tusur Mitta. The rent, which is levied at the time when the lake is full, is levied even when the lake is dry. The rent per acre ranges from Rs. 5 to 15. (He gives a memorandum of grievances).

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—I suppose you have nothing more to say.

A.—No.



Witness No. 187.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. Ramaswami Goundan of Piranthagam Mitta.

No patta has been granted to me. In the absence of a patta, I am not able to raise loans. It is not possible to have my name included in the electoral roll. It is not possible to remove the silt from the tank. We have filed a suit through the Collector. They let out the water. We objected. The Collector has passed a decree. We have filed the same. They refuse to receive the rent. I remitted it by money-order. But they refused to receive it. At last I sent it through a lawyer.

Witness No. 188.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. Ramaswami Reddiar of Muttanchetti.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Are you the Secretary of the Salem District Mitta Ryots' Association?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many members are there in the Association?

A.—There are 150 members.

Q.—Are all the mittas represented in the association?

A.—Only some mittas are represented in the association and the others are not.

Q.—You say that customary taxes are being collected from you unlawfully. What are they?

A.—I have only mentioned the grazing fee which is collected in the absence of any particulars in the patta.

Q.—While collecting the rent, do they demand and collect any levy from you for their own use?

A.—They do not collect it from us. But it is stated that they are collecting it in the adjoining villages.

Q.—Have you any land?

A.—I have five acres of dry land. I have no wet land.

Q.—What is the rent you pay?

A.—I pay Rs. 13.

Q.—Do they include any additional levy in the patta and collect it from you?

A.—No.

Q.—You say that the zamindar is not making proper use of the public tanks, public paths, etc. How does he use them?

A.—He assigns them. He grants patta for the burial ground to the holder of the adjacent land.

Q.—You say that they are depriving the public of certain facilities. What is the suggestion you make?

A.—I suggest that they should be prohibited from granting patta therefor and from interfering with it in any manner.

Q.—You say that the zamin officials are collecting illegal exactions in villages for their own use. What are they?

A.—They collect additional levies not mentioned in the patta.

Q.—What are the other hardships?

A.—They do not maintain proper accounts for the amounts collected by them.

Q.—Does not the zamindar pay attention to all this?

A.—Even though we represent it to him, he does not pay any heed to it.

Q.—What is the salary of the monigar?

A.—The monigar gets a salary of Rs. 4. The person who attends to collection work gets a monthly salary of Rs. 2.

Q.—How can it suffice for their maintenance?

A.—They have certainly to adopt some other means.

Q.—Did they receive anything from you?

A.—No.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—For how many years has the association been in existence?

A.—For the last five months.

Q.—Who has drafted the memorandum?

A.—Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyar.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Did you mention all these points and ask him to refer to them in the memorandum?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What is the extent of the land you possess? What is the rent you pay?

A.—I have 5 acres of dry land. I pay Rs. 13.

Q.—What crops do you raise on your land?

A.—I raise groundnut, maize and cumbu.

Q.—What do you get therefrom?

A.—I get about Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 in a year.

Witness No. 189.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Jambulinga Udaiyar of Arunagirimangalam.**

I have 6 cawnies of land. The rent I pay per cawny ranges from Rs. 7 to Rs. 12. Formerly the assessment in respect of five-sixteenths of a cawny was As. 14-9. It has now become Rs. 2-5-0. The rent is levied cropwar. I used to raise ragi, cumbu and maize on my land. They were collecting As. 14-9. This year they have levied Rs. 2-5-0. I oppose the system of issuing joint pattas.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—How much will you get from your land?

A.—I got only one kalam.

Q.—Is it the gross yield or the net yield?

A.—The net yield is 18 marakals.

Q.—For how much will it sell?

A.—It will sell for Rs. 3. If Rs. 2-5-0 is deducted therefrom, only a sum of 11 annas will remain. I suggest that the estate should be surveyed and that assessment should be levied as in ayan villages. In the ayan Gudalur village, the assessment is 10 or 11 annas per acre. It should be the same here also. Arrangements should be made for the supply of drinking water. In our zamin villages, the rates of assessment are Rs. 5 and Rs. 8. The rate of assessment for wet lands is Rs. 12. If we fail to pay the instalment of rent for the lands which we ourselves cultivate they distrain our cattle and refuse to set them free unless we pay them a sum of 8 annas or 12 annas.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Where do they keep the cattle?

A.—They keep them tied in a house in Ariyalur.

Q.—Do they collect an additional levy in that manner? Is there a receipt for it?

A.—There is a receipt. I have not brought it here.

Q.—Will you send it here?

A.—They do not mention it in the receipt. They collect it without mentioning it in the receipt. They collect it from us saying that it is the charge for feeding the cattle. (This witness and Nallapudiar of Arunagirimangalam jointly answer the questions put to the witness.) In the case of Kailasa Padayachi of Arunagirimangalam an assessment of Rs. 5 was levied for fasli 1344 and Rs. 8 for fasli 1345. (He shows the patta.)

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Were the crops raised different? Is the increase in the assessment due to that?

A.—Whatever may be the crops raised—we are cultivating our lands with the help of the water in the well which we have sunk at our cost. There used to be levied only one rate for garden crops. It is only for last two faslis that it has been enhanced. Formerly they were levying the same rate of assessment irrespective of the crops raised.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are there records for this?

A.—Yes. I have not brought them here.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Have you the old patta?

A.—Yes. I have not brought it here.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Will you bring it?

A.—I shall send it.



Witness No. 191.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Veerappa Kavandar of Kunnudayakavandanpatti,  
Kadavur zamin.**

The lands should be surveyed and the assessment should be reduced.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Why should it be reduced?

A.—They are levying assessment in excess of that levied in ayan villages. They are levying three kinds of taxes. The receipts given by them do not bear any signature. (He shows some receipts.) They give us a receipt and keep with them a copy thereof. They enter the amount paid as Rs. 8 in that copy and as Rs. 10 in the receipt given to us. Then they bring the land to auction even without the knowledge of the pattadar, saying that he owes them Rs. 2 in respect of the kist. They do not deduct the grazing fees. They levy a tax on patta trees.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Who gave this receipt?

A.—It is only the karnam that collects rent in our village.

Q.—Have you informed the manager about the granting of unsigned receipts?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you submitted a petition?

A.—No.

Q.—What did the manager say?

A.—He called the younger brother of the karnam and asked him to tell the karnam that he should do his work properly.

Q.—Has he been discharging his duties properly since then?

A.—I paid Rs. 10 for fasli 1344. He granted me a receipt for Rs. 10 for fasli 1343 and not for fasli 1344. I informed the manager about this. He asked him to grant a proper receipt. He gave only one receipt and did not give another receipt.

Q.—If he had not given it, did you complain about this to the manager?

A.—I did not. I kept quiet. The karnam is an insolvent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is he a Government karnam?

A.—He is a zamin karnam.

Q.—What is the suggestion you make?

A.—The assessment should be reduced and made equal to that levied in the ayan villages. By sinking a well at our expense we have converted our lands into wet lands. They are levying three kinds of taxes thereon. Even if the well collapses, they do not levy grazing tax. They levy wet rates.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have they not sunk the well at their own expense?

A.—No.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—What will be the cost of sinking a well?

A.—The cost is not known. We sink it ourselves. It may even cost Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. Ordinarily it may cost Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. If it is sunk in a rocky place, it may cost Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. Whatever may be the circumstances, they levy wet rates.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—If a well is sunk newly, do they levy any tax even for that?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Can you show any record here in support of your statement?

A.—I have not brought any record here. A well was sunk in our village and they have levied a tax for it. They have levied a tax in respect of the well sunk by Palaniyandi Kavandan.

Q.—Has such a tax been levied in your case?

A.—No.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have you submitted a petition?

A.—We are not educated and so we cannot submit a petition. They collect all the taxes that are time-barred.

Q.—If you pay the assessment for this fasli, do they credit it towards the assessment due for an earlier fasli?

A.—Yes. If we pay them any amount, they say that it will be credited towards our old arrears. We cannot understand the accounts relating to these payments.



Q.—What is the remedy that you suggest for this?

A.—The procedure adopted in ayan villages should be adopted here also. I suggest that the Government themselves should collect the assessment.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What is there wrong if they credit the amount towards the old arrears?

A.—Can we keep the rent in arrears? Can the rent for the last year or for the past two or three years be in arrears?

Q.—You could have submitted a petition to the Collector?

A.—If we know this, we will not be in this plight. If we are to submit petitions in respect of every matter, how can we attend to cultivation?

Witness No. 192.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938

Oral evidence of Mr. Sellamuthu Udaiyar, aged 25 years, of Thamaraiikulam (Chatram Estate), Kumbakonam taluk.

The rate of rent levied is Rs. 5 and we have been paying that rent in respect of that land. When we raise sugarcane crop, the rent levied is Rs. 7-8-0. If the rate is Rs. 8, they levy Rs. 12. We are paying rent even for the tank. We submitted a petition to the zamindar stating that it was only a thaladi. He granted some remission. They have again levied Rs. 7-8-0. There is no thaladi in the patta granted in fasli 1345. In the patta granted in fasli 1346, they have levied Rs. 3-10-0 as water-cess for second crop. We said that we should not be charged any water-cess. He remitted it. This year we raised varagu crop. They have levied Rs. 7-8-0 saying that what we raised was sugarcane. The karnam is our enemy. When we construct a tank in our patta lands, they collect tax for it. There may be water for some days or there may not be any water at all. They levy a separate water-cess for it. In Kallankadu, the rates of rent vary from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 5. For wet lands the rates of rent vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12. They levy rent on the cropwar basis. We are not able to pay it. We experience much difficulty. The rent should be levied as in ayan villages. We desire that the lands should be surveyed first and then assessed; or we shall be glad even if they levy kaval rates on them. There is no definite arrangement in purakkudi. They do not levy assessment at an uniform rate. In respect of patta No. 77, they have levied rent on waste lands at the rate of 2 annas per cawny. It comes to Rs. 6 per acre. How can we pay the rent if they levy it at such exorbitant rates? They say that they have granted some remission in respect of Chatram village. But the Chatram is not functioning. They are maintaining false accounts.

Witness No. 196.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Natesa Munnayathariar, son of Muthuswami Munnayathariar of (Kallar) Kuttappar, Trichinopoly district.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Which is your taluk?

A.—Trichinopoly taluk, Kuttappar village.

Q.—Are you an inam ryot?

A.—I am an inam tenant.

Q.—What is the extent of your land?

A.—7-10 acres.

Q.—To whom do you pay the assessment?

A.—I am paying an assessment of Rs. 7 or Rs. 9 per acre to the Nawab's office and to the estate of the Thavumanaswami Matam.

Q.—Are your land wet or dry?

A.—All of them are wet.

Q.—Is the assessment same in the case of both single and double-crop lands?

A.—The assessment levied by the Government and that levied by these authorities are different.

Q.—What is the source of irrigation?

A.—Uyyakondan channel.



Q.—What should be done now?

A.—The estate authorities have not carried out any repairs either to the tank or to the channel. They include channel poramboke in patta lands and levy assessment thereon. They have not excluded it from the patta. A major portion of our patta lands is dry. We are grazing our cattle there. We are paying assessment even for lands that lie uncultivated. These should be treated as poramboke lands free of any assessment. Though we are paying quit-rent to the Government, they are demanding from us assessment even for the second crop and the third crop.

Q.—What is the assessment levied in ayan village?

A.—In the case of wet lands, Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 per acre. There is no separate watercess. No assessment should be levied in the case of the third crop.

Q.—Has your village been surveyed?

A.—Yes. Patta should be granted every year.

Witness No. 197.

Trichinopoly.

10th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. S. Lakshmanier, Mahimalai village, Papanasam taluk, Tanjore district.**

Lands were granted on inam tenure by the late Ekoji, Maharaja of Tanjore. In the year 1735, the Maharaja granted about 87 velis of land in Mahimalai in Tanjore on permanent inam tenure to nearly 155 persons at the rate of three-fourths or half of a veli to each person and issued 153 sanpads. We have been enjoying for a long time the right in respect of both the varams mentioned in this Inams Act. Hitherto there were no such things as kudivaram and melvaram. The kudivaram right is found mentioned even in the Inams Act which was newly passed into law. I pray that this should not be brought into force. This record is now with the Collector of Tanjore. As a result of this enquiry, it should be declared that no distinctions should be made such as kudivaram and melvaram in villages similar to this village and that the right in respect of both the varams is attached only to the inams.

This sanad is in the Modi language. It has now been translated by an expert and filed as exhibit with my petition. I request that, in view of what has been stated above, the permanent inams may be excluded from the purview of the Inams Act of 1936. The English Inam B. Register, which it was decided to maintain as a result of the enquiry conducted by the Inams Commission of 1862, will show clearly the particulars relating to this matter. I request you to prove with the help of the accounts maintained by the Government themselves that those villages are villages that should be excluded from the operation of the Act in question.

Witness No. 199.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Arumuga Tevar, aged 60 years, son of Raksimuttu Tevar of Singampatti, Tinnevely district.**

In the absence of the Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, Revenue Minister, the President of the Committee Sri V. V. Jogayya Pantulu presided.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Which zamin? A.—Singampatti zamin.

Q.—Which village? A.—Singampatti village.

Q.—Please say in Tamil what you have to say? A.—The system in force in this zamin 40 or 50 years ago was varam. At that time there were about 2,000 or 3,000 cattle. Then the "pattam" system was fixed. After 2 or 3 years, they again reverted to the 'varam' system. After 4 or 5 years it was converted into the 'pattam' system. After this, there are no facilities for cattle in the village. Before that they had given free passes for grazing cattle. After the second pattam, they did not give any pass. On ceremonial occasions in the zamindar's house, he used to give presents of Rs. 50 or 100. If we told him that we have nothing to eat, he used to give half a kottai of grain. He had provided many facilities. Now we have no facilities whatever. It is very difficult for a family man. The kist in an ayan village is from Rs. 6-12-0 to Rs. 8. The assessment for us is from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per acre. As the pattam system has thus been applied, it is disadvantageous for us and the people have become poor.



Q.—What is the trouble caused by them in the matter of assessment on land? A.—When pattam is granted, we have to pay Rs. 8 per acre on account of road cess, kanganam and such levies as levies for the karnam and the monigar, for measurement and for coddung.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Why do not say that you will not pay them? A.—Trouble will result. Thereafter it will be impossible to live there.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Was a survey and settlement made? A.—No.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—How is the tank? Are the sources for tank irrigation and canal irrigation in good repair? A.—No.

Q.—For how many years have the tanks not been repaired? A.—They have not been repaired for 15 years.

Q.—Did you submit a petition asking for the repairs to be made? A.—They said that the long-term tenants would do the repairs.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—After the Court of Wards took charge of the zamin, did it do anything? A.—It did not do.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they run a school in the zamin? A.—They have a school in their name and conduct it with the Government grant.

Q.—Do they collect anything from the tenants for charity? A.—There is nothing at present.

Q.—Do they collect any mahimai? A.—No.

Witness No. 200.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. S. V. Subbayya Ayyar, son of Mr. Sivaramakrishna Ayyar, of Zamin Kallidaikurichi.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is your village?

A.—Kallidaikurichi.

Q.—Who is your zamindar?

A.—The Zamindar of Urkad. I am a pattadar in Kallidaikurichi village. There are three revenue villages in the zamin, viz., Vellangudi, North Kallidaikurichi and South Kallidaikurichi. Double-crop lands pay rates ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 99 per acre. Assessment for double-crop lands irrigated by Kanadian channel varies from Rs. 75 to Rs. 99 for an acre.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Has there been survey and settlement in your zamin?

A.—No. In zamin pattas measurement is in terms of “kotta,” “marakkal” and “pady.” They have also been converted into acres. There are nine pattas as regards my village is concerned. There is only one case of single-crop lands and assessment for them is Rs. 29 per acre.

Q.—What is the lowest rate?

A.—Rs. 29 is the lowest rate. In South Kallidaikurichi, the lands are “Kulapathu” lands and are irrigated by tanks. Rates prevailing range from Rs. 18 to Rs. 46-8-0 per acre.

Q.—Are they double-crop lands?

A.—No. They are single-crop lands.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the income from land?

A.—Rs. 54 from an acre of land.

It is difficult to pay the kist from the outturn of grain. We have to supplement it from some other money on hand and we are hard put to it. That is the cause for lands being frequently brought to auction. Zamin lands bear their own numbers. Ayan pattas have their own survey numbers. In zamin accounts survey numbers are not clear. In zamin pattas “soil taram” is mentioned. From the Settlement Register we will be able to say what lands bear the rates of Rs. 11-4-0; Rs. 15-4-0 and Rs. 22-8-0, respectively. In the Settlement Register, every survey number bears the corresponding number of taram.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Who submitted the table of statement?

A.—The District Congress Committee.



Q.—It does not bear any signature?

A.—No. The table of statement was handed over to the witness and was asked to sign it. The witness signed it in the presence of the committee; Mr. A. S. Kuppuswami Ayyar of Tinnevely observed that as the Secretary of the District Congress Committee, Tinnevely, the figures in the statement had been verified by him. The Chairman also remarked that if Mr. A. S. Kuppuswami Ayyar wanted to sign the statement, he could also sign it but the signature of the witness was quite sufficient, he observed.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—When did these rates come into existence?

A.—During the time of resettlement. "Kulapath" lands in the zamindari are all single-crop lands. Rate for adjoining ryotwari lands is Rs. 6-12-0 per acre. There were four kinds, viz., "7 marakkal varams," "8 marakkal varams",  $2/5$  chevvaram and another kind of varam in those days when zamin lands were paying varams. In 1877 the Estate of Urkad was under the management of the Court of Wards. Whoever manages the estate, there is bound to be some trouble always, in computing the "varam-share." To do away with the attendant hardships, therefore, the Court of Wards took great pains and converted the varam into "pattam," i.e., fixed grain-rent was settled by them. In fasli 1285, melvaram amounted to 214 kottas and odd. Total area was 69 kottas, 17 marakkals and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  measures. Enhancement under "pattam" amounted to 51 kottas and odd, and the total was 260 kottas and odd. The "pattam" system was in force for four years. On the zamindar attaining his majority, the "pattam" system introduced by the Court of Wards was cancelled and the ryots were directed by the zamindar to receive their pattas on basis of the varam tenure prevailing formerly. This was not, however, carried out but a so-called "compromise" was entered instead. Under the "compromise" an agreement was entered into between the zamindar and the ryots. According to the agreement, the ryots were to pay the zamindar an increase of 22 kottas for 30 years. In fasli 1285, the melvaram share was 214 kottas, 17 marakkals and  $\frac{1}{2}$  measure. Under the "pattam" it was increased to 288 kottas and commutation rate was calculated and fixed by the basis on this basis.

Q.—Was there no variation after the Act of 1908?

A.—There was no variation. "Ahapatt" lands also were varam-paying lands formerly. They remained so for nearly ten years after the "Kulapath" lands became "Pattam" lands. It is difficult to know the basis on which the pattam was fixed with regard to "Kulapath" lands.

Q.—Who estimates so many kottas of paddy every year in terms of cash?

A.—Under section 40, fixed grain-rent has been converted into cash-rent.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—By whom was it converted into cash-rent?

A.—Under section 40, cash-rent was fixed by the court.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is the grain-rate mentioned in the patta?

A.—Items regarding varam are not found in this patta. Nor is the grain-rent mentioned. No condition in the patta is being observed.

(The witness was asked to read the contents of the patta and the witness read that.)

Witness: It means that irrespective of the source of irrigation, the same rent will be levied even if the lands are cultivated with the aid of wells sunk by the ryots.

Q.—Did you file any petition objecting to that condition?

A.—I objected to that condition and also stated in the muchilka that I could not accept either the condition mentioned in the patta or the kist-bund. The estate authorities have not taken any action, on my muchilka which I have been submitting to them for sometime past. I have given a written statement of the effect that I could not accept the "kist-bunds" of 15th January, 15th February and 15th March. In the patta the instalments paid towards rent is not entered.

There are 15 villages in our zamin. In the deed of Permanent Settlement, only three villages were mentioned. The estate authorities say that they have pattas for the villages.

Q.—Kist-bund is not put into practice. Is it what you say?

A.—They are endeavouring to put into practice. From faslis 319 to 327 ryots have accepted the "kist-bund" on 30th June and filed a petition under section 77 of the Estates Land Act. In the pattas I have filed kist-bunds for 15th October and 15th April are mentioned. In one petition, it is made clear that the cause of action rose on 1st July. I have copy of the plaint with me. Though the kist-bund is mentioned in the patta, the estate authorities have a practice of their own.

Q.—Have you filed the patta where in this condition figures?

A.—Yes. After receiving my muchilka in which I have stated I did not accept the kist-bund for a year, they started distraint proceedings against me under section 78, last. The reason for distraint proceedings is this. When the Court of Wards handed over the management of the estate, there was a surplus of 2 lakhs. The estate, however,



incurred debts amounting to 2 lakhs, sometime afterwards. To meet this debt, "pannai" lands of the zamindar were leased out for terms extending to ten years. In these circumstances, the position of the zamindar becomes difficult when ryots pay their kist after 30th June. He is not able to pay the peshkash to the Government and harasses us by instituting distraint proceedings against us.

Q.—When did they start distraint proceedings against ryots?

A.—On 28th March 1936. It was for the kist payable for this fasli. The kist is collected within one month. The date of payment is 30th June.

Q.—Is not the kist collected in four instalments?

A.—No. It may be paid within 30th June conveniently. But claim for rent is entered only after that date.

Q.—Is there any record for it?

A.—I have left it in my house. I shall file it. Distraint notice was issued to me under section 112 of the Estates Land Act, for the balance due in the sale notice of 30th June 1931. (The witness files sale notices.) Some of my belongings were seized. At this stage I paid the amount under protest with the object of preventing further distraint. The amount paid was Rs. 82-14-0. I sent notice that I will file a suit on receipt of reply notice. I instituted a suit for damages.

Q.—Finally you entered into a compromise?

A.—Under a compromise I might get only Rs. 5 as damages, through the court, whereas I was given a receipt for Rs. 82-14-0, without my paying anything.

Q.—Mention any other point?

Witness: The Government levied water-rate for the estate. The zamindar did not pay it till fasli 1305; but nanja water-rate was levied by the estate on the punja lands and the ryots had to pay it.

Q.—If it is collected from the zamindar?

A.—The zamindar will send a petition to the Government and have the water-rate cancelled.

Q.—Are punja lands in your estate irrigated from a Government source?

A.—Government levy water-rate. Before the Government assesses water-rate, the estate takes from ryots 1 kotta of paddy for a plot of land in which one kotta of seeds are sown. As punja lands are improved by irrigation from Government source, Government have a right to levy water-rate. This question went up to the High Court. Improvements were due to the water supplied from the Government source. They did not depend on any zamin source. Since, however, the zamindar levies the water-rate, we included the Government also in the suit against the zamindar.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Perhaps the zamindar collects dues from you to meet the water-rate imposed by the Government?

A.—No. There is a judgment of the High Court regarding it. (S.A. Nos. 201 to 214 of 1904.)

Q.—Who collects the water-rate now?

A.—The Government collect it from the zamindar. We are paying grain-rent. As the judgment of the High Court was favourable to us, the estate has ceased collecting water-rate in our villages after fasli 1322. This was in pursuance of a registered agreement between the zamindar and the ryots. In other villages water-rate is being collected and this is due largely to the lack of union among the ryots. Water-rate is represented by half the assessment in the first-crop and it comes to about Rs. 22-8-0. Out of this, the zamindar pays Rs. 7 to the Government.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Have you brought any records with you?

A.—No.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is the water-rate levied for taking water from the channels?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did the zamindar demand contribution for raising embankment to the tank?

A.—The ryots were asked to contribute one-third of the costs.

Q.—Did not the ryots object to the levy of water by the zamindar?

A.—No. I also objected to it. Others are paying it.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is rent consolidated rent?

A.—Yes.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Have survey and settlement taken place in your zamin?

A.—No.

Q.—You want survey and settlement?

A.—Yes.



Q.—Who is to pay the costs?

A.—It is not fair that we should be asked to pay the costs. The zamindar collects high rates. It is not just that the ryots should be required to meet the costs of survey and settlement.

Q.—Have you given any memorandum?

A.—No.

Witness: Ryots have to file suits paying a court-fee of Rs. 11-4-0 for every hundred rupees. They should be permitted to institute suits in Small Cause Courts as court-fees there are only Rs. 7-8-0 for every hundred rupees. Regarding remission, the witness said that the average for preceding 12 months comes to Rs. 9, the commutation rate is Rs 9-4-0. The rules lay down that remission is allowable only if there is a reduction of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. This takes into account only the expenses during the time of the harvest. It will be reasonable and helpful to ryots if it is changed into 5 per cent.

Section 112.—Sale of holdings is a costly procedure. It is due largely to publication in the gazette. Section 112 requiring publication in gazette should be deleted and Tahsildar should be empowered to effect transfer of pattas.

Under section 34, purchasers are allowed a commission of 5 per cent. Add to that, Government deducts 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for poundage. This has been in practice for the past two years. In such circumstances new rates should not be levied. As regards irrigation sources, he will have no means to repair them when he finds it difficult even to pay the peshkash to the Government.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are not tanks repaired?

A.—No.

Q.—What do you suggest in this connexion?

A.—Formerly there was three months' water-capacity in the tanks. There is only ten days' water-capacity now. This is with regard to "Kulapattu" lands.

Q.—What do you think will ensure proper repairs to tanks?

A.—A portion of the rent collected from ryots should be set apart for the purpose.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—How much?

A.—Regarding present condition our tank will require ten years' revenue for efficient repairs. It will suffice if about 15 per cent of the estate's income is set apart for irrigation repairs.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Who should effect repairs?

A.—The Government should undertake it and recover the expenses from the zamindar.

Witness: *Grazing facilities*.—Urkad Zamin consists wholly of wet lands. Pasture lands are very few. In the centre of the Moolachinkulam there are "Kuttithiratti poramboke" and "Kalam poramboke." They form 10 acres of land. The zamindar has leased them on contract to a private individual for grazing purposes. Pattadars are not permitted to remove grass.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—The private individual can take them on lease and let it for others?

A.—Yes, we do not mind the restrictions with regard to removing grass. Our grievance however is that cattle are prevented from passing along the small bunds in the nanja fields.

Q.—Are there facilities for grazing on tank-bunds?

A.—No. Kora-grass on tank-bunds is leased on contract. Grazing facilities are so limited in the zamin and the estate causes hardships to ryots by leasing pasture-lands on contract. In 1803, it was arranged that 65-3/16 of the total income of the estate should constitute the share of the Government and the remaining 34-13/16 per cent should be the zamindar's share. (The witness filed the Board's Proceedings of 1876.)

In the deed of Permanent Settlement only three villages are assigned to this zamin. After 1875, 12 more villages have become zamin lands. It has become necessary to institute an enquiry to find out whether these villages really belong to the zamindar.

The survey commissioner has reported on the matter. There are Revenue Board Proceedings with regard to it. There is ample income for the estate. It will be found that the present income is 50 per cent larger than the original income at the time of the Permanent Settlement.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Does increase in income due to enhanced rates?

A.—Increase in income is due to enhanced rent and increase in prices.

Q.—Have you any complaint with regard to power of distraint?

A.—The zamindar abuses his power. The power of distraint should be abolished.



Witness No. 201.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai, Urkadu kasba.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What are you going to say? A.—The assessment in the Urkadu kasba is from Rs. 70 to Rs. 108-8-0 per acre. There are ayan lands in the neighbourhood. The kist there is Rs. 15-4-0. If an extra crop is raised on a single crop land, the zamindar levies an additional tax at one and a half times the original. For Rs. 75 per acre, an additional assessment of Rs. 37-8-0 is collected. It is Rs. 70 per acre for a double crop. If a third crop is raised, they collect a separate tax of Rs. 17-8-0 for it. This should not be done.

Q.—Have you the receipts for these assessments? A.—They are noted in the patta.

Witness continues : If three crops are to be cultivated in a land, the three crops are charged for in the patta. (Witness files the pattas.) They levy an extra tax of Rs. 35. If we raise two crops on a single crop wet land, they obtain permission from Government and levy a water-tax of Rs. 6 per acre. The tax for a double crop on a single crop wet land is Rs. 60 per acre. They levy a water-rate of Rs. 35. If we apply for water in the month of July, the order will be issued in the month of September. If we cultivate in the meanwhile, they levy a "penal" rate. The practice of the zamindar appropriating what we pay to the Government should be abolished.

Funeral ground.—There is a grave in the zamin. There are no facilities for going to the funeral ground. There was a bridge but it has fallen down.

Q.—"The district board may acquire the land and provide the facilities."

Witness continues : They do not allow us to build houses with stones. Formerly the previous zamindar was freely allowing it. Now the present zamindar has leased it. No repairs are done to the canal. If no water flows this time in the canal, it will get belated for cultivation and it will be difficult. There is trouble in cultivation.

Q.—Did you petition to the Divisional Officer that these people did not do the repairs? A.—We, family men, do not know it. We have not petitioned.

Q.—"Will the people of Subbayyan village be unaware of all these?" Did you not submit a petition? A.—No.

Q.—"Please submit it in future."

Witness continues : The assessment is unbearable. The system should be made ryotwari and the tenants protected.

Witness No. 204.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. Muthuswami Mooppanar, Pithapuram (Tenant of Ettiyapuram estate).

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Which village? A.—Pithappapuram village.

Q.—What is the matter? A.—This village is 4 furlongs from the palace. They divert the tank water for irrigating the palace wet lands. We had a loss of Rs. 6,000. They do not deepen the tank. There is much hardship. If we do not pay the assessment, i.e., Rs. 35 per kottai, they beat us.

Q.—Have you patta? A.—Yes. (He filed the patta with a statement.)

Q.—What is the number of the patta? A.—No. 1.

Q.—Please explain your difficulties? A.—The assessment is high.

Q.—How much is it per acre? A.—It is Rs. 35 per kottai. A kottai is 1.85 cent. The assessment is Rs. 35.

Q.—Have you any patta for that? A.—If we do not pay the assessment, they beat us and cause us hardship. We are poor tenants. My land is 2½ cents. I have debts amounting to Rs. 2,000. The assessment is in existence for the last 11 years.

Q.—How much was it previously? A.—It was 96 gold coins. It may come to a total of about Rs. 190 for wet crops and betel crops.

Q.—Is the assessment of Rs. 35 for betel crop or for wet crop? A.—It is Rs. 35 whether we cultivate wet crop or betel crop.

Q.—What is the assessment for a paddy crop and for a betel crop? A.—It is Rs. 35 for wet crop and betel crop.



Q.—Was it fixed 11 years ago? A.—Yes. This assessment is in force only for the last 11 years.

Q.—Was a settlement survey made then? A.—They fixed the assessment of Rs. 35 at their pleasure.

Q.—Did you go to court? A.—We are poor. When princes do like that, what can we poor tenants do? They levied the assessment only as they liked.

Q.—They would have given you a patta 11 years ago. Have you it? A.—No.

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Can you now bring the patta given before? A.—I can. But I have not brought it now. We, agriculturists, are starving. After paying them we have to keep quiet without anything to eat. (Laughter.) We have to pay Rs. 35 whether there is any yield or not. No repairs are made to the tank.

Q.—Did you submit a petition to the Collector saying that no repairs were done? A.—We did not submit a petition. They filed a suit that we made a riot and beat their servants but it was dismissed. We did not submit a petition because we were afraid.

Q.—Do they collect anything else besides the assessment of Rs. 35? A.—They collect about 12 annas or Re. 1 on the whole as contribution for present in addition to the assessment of Rs. 35. They collect this amount without any distinction from every pattadar. Even if there is only an arrear of 2 annas according to the demand, they collect 5 annas. They do not give us a receipt. (No receipt for illicit extra payment.)

Q.—What else? A.—They collect what is known as fees for the karnam and the village munsif. We have to fear them and the zamindar's strictness. We have the contribution for presents, road-cess, education tax, demand fees, etc.

Q.—Do you pay any tax as rusum? A.—No.

Q.—Have you to pay anything at the time of transfer of a patta? A.—We have to pay whatever they ask.

Q.—Who asks? A.—We give bribes to the clerks. We do not pay them to the zamindar. In the zamin, they collected at the rate of Rs. 2-8-0 for a patta.

Q.—Do they repair the tank? A.—I am 50 years old. They have not done so far. There is no water.

Q.—Have they constructed any sluices? A.—No. They have built kanmois in bits. They divert the water as they like. They have put up the bunds but have not dug up the kanmois. The water is not more than one foot in depth. If we take a cart-load of sand, we have to pay 4 annas. It seems that if we take it, a right will be created for the tenants. If we dig up the mud and put it as manure for betels, they collect 2 annas or 4 annas. We should not cut leaves without tickets. If we cut reeds, they demand 4 annas. The ticket for a head-load for one man is 4 annas. If the cow or bullocks graze, they collect one rupee. Thus we are experiencing hardship. Even in the regime of the Congress Government, so long as there are the zamindars at the head of the estates, they will not allow us to prosper. The Congress Government should be our saviour and should protect us.

Q.—Can you take stones from patta land for building houses? A.—Even if it is our patta land, they will collect 4 annas or 8 annas per cart. We have to pay 4 annas for breaking stones, whether it be their poramboke land or our land.

Q.—Even if a tree is one which was not planted by the zamindar, do they collect anything for it? A.—We should not cut it. If we cut it, the petty officials will report it to the zamindar. Ten or twenty persons will come from him as emergent warrant and beat us and fine us Rs. 5. They will also take away the tree.

Q.—If there is natham in the village, will you build a house there? A.—They will consent to our building a house only if we pay the assessment for ten years.

Q.—If there is an acre of land, you will build a house in 2 or 3 cents in a corner. Do you have to pay assessment for it? A.—No. If we build a house on the entire land without cultivating it and enjoy the entire garden, they collect the assessment for 12 years.

Q.—Do they ask anything in addition to the regular levy of assessment for land? A.—I do not know about it.

Q.—If you dig a well on the dry land and grow a garden, do you pay additional assessment? A.—They collect Rs. 10 or Rs. 8 every year as garden assessment.

Q.—What is the assessment for dry forests? A.—The rates are Rs. 1-4-0, Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 2-4-0.

Q.—For which land do you pay the assessment of Rs. 2-4-0? A.—For more than Rs. 9.



Q.—If they demand Rs. 9 or Rs. 10 per acre, what crop will you raise? A.—We would cultivate ragi, cholam, chillies, etc.

Q.—Is the assessment according to the crop or is it irrespective of the crop? A.—Separate assessment.

Q.—Do you have any land other than wet land? A.—I have only wet land and no garden land.

Q.—Have you omitted anything to say? A.—There is nothing more.

MR. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Who collects the assessment? A.—The village munsif of Ambalam.

Q.—Does the zamindar pay any salary to him? A.—Only the salary paid by the Government.

Q.—Do they distrain the cattle for assessment due? A.—They distrain them. If they are enraged, they distrain everything.

Q.—Do they issue a demand notice for collection? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they collect the rent in one instalment? A.—In Ettiyapuram, they collect it in six instalments.

MR. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you think that it will be better if the Government themselves grant the pattas directly? A.—Yes.

Q.—What will the land, for which you pay Rs. 35, yield per acre? A.—If there is water, it may yield 4 kottais or 10 kottais. Otherwise, it will not yield anything. We may get only 500 kottais of paddy. A loss of Rs. 2,000 will result. The zamindar diverts the water to his private tank. We do not get water.

Q.—Is there Government ayan land in the neighbourhood? A.—It is in Vilathikulam, at a distance of 10 or 12 miles.

Q.—How is the assessment in the ayan village? A.—We do not know how much the assessment in the ayan village is.

Q.—Is the assessment in the ayan village more or less? A.—It will be only less.

Q.—Are you merely guessing here? A.—(Silence.) No reply.

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—How much land have you? A.—The entire land will be of the value of Rs. 3,000. I have mortgaged an acre for Rs. 1,500.

Q.—Do you lease out your land to any one? A.—Yes. I lease out my betel garden for 3 or 2½ years at 2 or 1½ rupees.

Q.—What income will you get every year? A.—If I cultivate all these lands, I may get Rs. 100 from all of them. After paying the assessment to the zamindar, I may get Rs. 100 for 3 years from the entire property. I have to pay a beriz of Rs. 80 per annum for 2¼ kottais. I may get only Rs. 100 for three years.

Q.—In addition to this land, do you cultivate any other land on lease? A.—No.

Witness No. 205.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ramaswami Mooppanar, Naduvappatti, Ettiyapuram.

MR. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—What are you going to say? A.—He filed a petition.

Q.—Have you wet land? A.—I have.

Q.—Are you going to say anything more than what was said before? A.—No.

Q.—What is this? (Showing the petition). A.—They have taken an agreement from 24 holders of lands. We execute it at first. It is now 11 years.

Q.—Why did you execute it? A.—They said that they would grant patta only if we execute it. Hence we executed this and obtained our pattas.

Q.—What is the assessment per acre? A.—It is Rs. 18-12-0.

Q.—Do you know what the assessment for ayan land in the neighbourhood is? A.—It is Rs. 3-12-0 or Rs. 5-10-0. The tenants have paid Rs. 5-12-0 even in our estate.



Q.—Why is it high only here? A.—It is because we are cultivating betels. The well has been dug only by us. The assessment is 96 gold coins. (Each coin is equivalent to about Rs. 2.) We do spade work for a wage of 10 marakals. The entire rate for an acre is Rs. 18. They have taken a draft from us that we may raise any crop and granted patta.

Q.—You pay Rs. 18 or 20. Have you executed a deed that you do not want water or the well and that they have the right to take everything? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who is the Diwan now? A.—Shanmugam Pillai.

Q.—What more are you going to say? A.—This is all.

Witness No. 206.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. A. Abraham, Kolayankarikal, Sivapuram mitta, Karukurichi.

He presented a document and then said: After a patta is granted, a farmer cultivates the land. Sometimes he raises wet crops on dry land. There is big brook to the north of the village. Mud collects in the open space which forms the wet land, and the land becomes unfit for cultivation. In such places, the Government cancel the water-rate. But the mittadar collects the wet assessment. In times of emergency, we submit a petition and cut down our own palmyra tree after paying Re. 1 or Rs. 1-8-0 for it. They do not deduct from that amount afterwards. Even after we had cut down the palmyra tree planted in fasli 1317, they are still collecting tax for it. Formerly there were 94 fruit-bearing trees and 154 leaf-yielding trees. Now there are only 50 trees. (He filed the document for the collection of taxes for all trees, even though there were only 50 trees at present.)

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Have you submitted any petition regarding this? A.—No.

Q.—Do they make any remission if you apply? A.—No. The nattam is the place allotted for residence. If there are coconuts, mango or palmyra trees in the garden there, they are also taxed. No. 619 is the nattam (house-sites).

Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—On whose name is the assessment? A.—It is for 11 persons.

Q.—Is it patta land? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who enjoys it? A.—Only the residents enjoy it.

Q.—Do they collect tax also for those standing on the land? A.—Yes. Firstly, as soon as the palmyras began to yield, they levied the tax. They granted patta for the lands 15 years ago.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—In whose possession was the land then? A.—As income was derived from palmyra trees, they granted patta in respect of palmyra trees. Now they are granting pattas even for lands. If I say that a land is mine, they grant the patta in respect of it to another man. But if a palmyra tree is mine, there is no question about it. My father had a patta in respect of S. No. 848. Now they have granted patta in respect of it to two persons.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Did you file a suit in the Court? A.—No.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—The Government issued an order that, if the patta in respect of a land and the trees on it belong to different persons, the person to whom the land belongs should pay compensation in respect of the trees to the person to whom they belong. Did you do anything about this? A.—No. They should pay it only to the person to whom the palmyras belong. It has already been mentioned that we have to pay the water-rate even if the land becomes waste. In cases of auction and distraint, they collect fees for tom-tom, postage, etc.

Q.—It happens like this in all zamins. A.—A suit was filed in the Collector's office and it was decided in our favour.

Q.—Have you a copy of the judgment here? A.—I have not brought it here.



Witness No. 207.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ponnayya Mooppanar, Irakshi, Ettiyapuram.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—For what purpose have you come? A.—The assessment, Rs. 23-7-6 is high. The commutation rent for a kottai is Rs. 21-8-8.

Q.—What do you cultivate in the land? A.—Betels and paddy.

Q.—To whom did it belong formerly? A.—It belonged to the zamindar.

Q.—What was the assessment formerly? A.—Then it was waram.

Q.—How long ago was it? A.—Thirty years. I do not know about it.

Q.—Will the land yield two crops? A.—We do not have water even for a single crop. It is very rarely that we have produce from the land in 5 years out of 10. Though we spent Rs. 500 and dug a well, there is no water. I go to Malaya, earn there and thus pay the assessment here. For ten years there has been no yield.

Q.—How long is it now since this assessment was fixed? A.—Thirty years. My land is 1.63 acres. The tank has gone into disrepair and there is no way for cultivation.

Q.—Why can you not repair them? A.—They do not allow us to do the repairs. It is ten years since a dam was constructed.

Q.—Have you kept it waste? A.—We have not yet repaired it.

Q.—Is there obstruction in the tank for the flow of water? A.—They have put some mud. If water flows now, it will overbreak through the mud.

Q.—What else? A.—There is high assessment. The tank has not been repaired.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—You went away to some distance. With whom did you leave your land? A.—No one ploughed it. If there is any yield, we can toil and cultivate it. But there is no way. They ask some fees even for grazing our cattle.

Q.—I hear they allow you to graze your cattle free of payment in your zamin. A.—They levy fees at the rate of one rupee or eight annas in the zamin.

Q.—Do they collect fees for grazing in the tank, etc.? A.—The cattle graze only coconut grass. They call it by some name.

Q.—What is the assessment in the ayan village? A.—In the ayan village Gangaikondan, the assessment is Rs. 8-4-0. It is only 15 miles distant. It is my mother's village. No repairs have been done. They say that we should pay the assessment for 12 years if we build a house. We built a house on patta land. It is now 24 years. They ask assessment for 20 years. We neither paid the assessment nor sold it. If the zamindar comes to know of this, he will exercise great authority and may even drive us away from the village.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do you imagine that it will happen? A.—It happens like that now.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Do you not have an association in the zamin? A.—No. If the Congress Government be not in existence now, we cannot even mention it.

Witness No. 208.

Madura.

21st February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Subbayya Mooppanar, Irakshi, Ettiyapuram.

(He filed a paper stating that the tax was Rs. 23-7-8.)

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What are the crops grown? A.—Paddy, ragi and betel.

Q.—What more are you going to say? A.—The assessment is indeed high.

Q.—I suppose you have come here to give evidence of your own accord? A.—Yes.



Witness No. 211.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kandaswami Tevar, Sankarankoil taluk, Sivagiri zamin.

Half of our estate is having varam tenure for nanja and cash thirva for punja. Varam rate for nanja ranges from Rs. 3-3-9 to Rs. 6-8-0 per acre. There is a neighbouring ayan village named Tirumalapuram. The rate of thirva in that village is from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. There are only single-crop lands in our estate. (Files old Settlement Register.) There is connexion between our zamin estate lands and the ayan lands and it is indicated in the plan. The stones showing the limits or border line of the lands of our estate and the Government lands are very close to each other. Says that he will submit a plan for that too. In our zamin, varam tenure is prevalent for half of the nanja lands and the other half is having thirva tenure.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What is the rate of thirva?

A.—Varam tenure for nanja per acre is from Rs. 40 to Rs. 43. (Files a patta of Visvanathaperi village.)

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the rate of thirva for Government lands?

A.—From Rs. 4 to Rs. 5.

Q.—Why is the thirva so high?

A.—By converting varam thirva into the commutation basis, they have put the high rate of thirva.

Q.—This same estate has paid cash payment previously instead of varam?

A.—Thirva paid for nanja is from Rs. 3-3-9 to Rs. 6-8-0.

Q.—For how many years?

A.—About 70 years.

Q.—Is there no dispute about this thirva?

A.—There is no dispute because the thirva settlement was done in the Collector's court.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—When did commutation take place?

A.—From the year 1913 onwards.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN : Q.—You said that settlement was done in a court, In which court?

A.—In revenue court.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Did you do anything after this?

A.—The matter was taken to the High Court, but the settlement done by the Collector was confirmed.

Witness continues : The reason for the levy of Rs. 40 to Rs. 43 thirva is, when commutation was applied, the price of commodities like paddy, were high. Paddy was then selling at Rs. 18 to Rs. 19. Now the price of paddy is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. Even if cultivation of nanja lands is done by well-irrigation, thirva is levied stating that it is irrigated by water from a channel. During harvest season, the rate of thirva is raised stating that commutation can be levied, even without allowing some margin of gifts from labour and other expenditures. All these expenditures are taken as an income and thus the thirva is raised. If a person owns 2 acres of lands, he cannot do the business of harvesting, threshing, etc., in a day. So he cuts on harvests the crop of one acre land in a day and heaps them at a fixed place and then begins threshing the crop. After threshing is over he collects the grain at a place and leaves it covered with hay (ambaram). Next day he repeats the same thing over again for the other acre of land. If the cattle, that is allowed to trod over the hay after threshing, to collect any grains left in the straw (punaiyal), strays into the place where the grains are collected (ambaram) or takes a mouthful of the hay or disturbs the seal placed on the grain heap,  $\frac{1}{4}$  kota or  $\frac{1}{2}$  kota of grain is included along with commutation as a fine and high rate of thirva is levied. Under the common water-supply of a tank there will be two kinds of lands, viz., (1) the homefarm lands in the zamin and (2) the lands of the ryots or tenants. In such cases, half of the water in the tank is reserved and diverted for the use of the homefarm lands. If any objection is raised to such a kind of diversion of water, criminal case is lodged against those who object. Therefore, the lands of the ryots do not yield properly. If failure or insufficient yield of crop is stated to the zamindar, he charges that it is due to the carelessness of your tenants and asserts that it is all a humbug and he insists on the payment of the usual thirva without any reduction of the same.



Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you a personal knowledge of these matters?

A.—Yes; I have.

Witness continues: Wild animals are living in huge numbers in our place and they frequently destroy the crop and thus put us to a loss. Crops are also spoiled by floods, insects and storms occasionally. Even in such case thirva is not reduced and remission is not granted. Even though crops are raised by the supply of water from the wells, sunk at our own cost, remission is not given to us. If remission is given in the neighbouring Government lands for failure of crops, we are not given any such thing. Our lands are not surveyed but a record of survey is kept in the zamin in which there will be some increase or decrease in the lands of the tenants. There is nobody to check the correctness or accuracy of the survey. We are compelled to pay the thirva laid by the zamin.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Did not the Court of Wards survey your lands?

A.—The lands were surveyed but settlement has not been done. There is no jamabandi in our estate. If ragi is cultivated and if the zamin accounts show of paddy cultivation we have to pay the thirva laid for paddy alone. We do not know which lands have which kind of thirva levied. We plead for jamabandi to take place, regularly.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Where does your zamindar live?

A.—The previous zamindar did not live in the zamin itself but the present zamindar is living in the zamin itself.

Q.—Is there manager or diwan in your zamin?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they not functioning?

A.—They are very particular of collecting the rent alone and they pay particular attention in carrying out what the zamindar says.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Was there any Receiver in your zamin?

A.—Yes, there was one Receiver. But he was dispensed with stating that he is not functioning properly.

Q.—What is the rate for nanja over punja?

A.—If both the parties agree, the thirva is Rs. 4, i.e., an extra amount of Rs. 4 is laid as water cost on the punja thirva.

Q.—What is objection for you in this?

A.—The rate in the neighbouring ayan villages is from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8, whereas it is Rs. 40 in our zamin. This is the only grievance for us. Moreover, in the collection of thirva, we are put to some troubles. Even for the assignment of patta, the zamin takes rupees by way of contribution or lanjam.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you give money to the zamindar directly?

A.—Yes. I, myself, have given personally.

Q.—Who is collecting the thirva?

A.—The manager comes to collect the thirva with some 40 to 50 rowdies. If we say that we will pay the thirva after a few days, our cattle and other movable property are distrained. We have not the adequate strength to oppose them.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the rate of thirva for punja lands?

A.—Ten annas. Nanja over punja rate is As. 12-4. As there is water near this land, punja crops will not grow. Yet the thirva is paid. If the lands are to be converted into nanja lands, then a thirva of Rs. 4 has to be paid.

Q.—What is the rate of thirva for Government punja lands?

A.—From As. 13 to Rs. 1-2-0.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What is the thirva for garden lands?

A.—Only punja rates. In some cases high rate of thirva is collected. If betel leaves, sugarcane, etc., are grown in the gardens then the thirva levied is from Rs. 14 to Rs. 18.

Q.—You said that before wells are sunk, the thirva was 10 annas and that after the sinking of wells the thirva levied was higher? Have you got receipts for that?

A.—Receipts are not given.

Q.—Is the zamindar doing repairs to tanks?

A.—The zamindar has not repaired the tanks so far. Petitions lodged are not paid heed to. There is a case going on in the court in regard to this matter. We put a petition to the Collector. It was sent to the Divisional Officer. He gave a report favourable



to the tenants. Collector also ordered in favour of the tenants that the tanks and channels must be repaired. But the zamindar went up to the High Court. His petition was dismissed in the High Court. There occurred a breach in 1925 and in 1932. The High Court decided in favour of the tenants. But up to now no repair to the tanks was done by the zamindar.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—With regard to that, did you present any petition to the Collector?

A.—No. Up to now we have been put to a lot of expenditure for nothing. We derived no benefit. We had no money to spend further. Since commutation has been done and since they are sure that they will get somehow or other their thirva, they have determined not to do any repairs to the tanks. Moreover permission is being given to convert all punja lands into nanja lands which is not beneficial to the tenants.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—What have you got more to say? Is there any forest in your zamin?

A.—There is a forest in our zamin extending up to eight miles in length and four miles broad, on the whole covering 32 square miles. The area under 1 mile length and 4 miles broad is reserved for grazing the cattle, sheep, etc. The ryots have permission to take manure, green manure, etc., for agricultural purposes from the forests after paying a low nominal thirva. Since the previous zamindar promised to give the whole forest for grazing purposes and for removal of green manure leaves we included this portion also with the main forest. Now all those rights have been robbed of from us. All those rights are being utilized by the rich and well-to-do persons alone. There is no benefit or facility for an ordinary person like the ryot or tenant. They are planning even to sell these forest lands.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Has the forest been sold to anybody at any time?

A.—For one Razu in Rajapalaiyam they have sold 250 acres of land. He is planning to cut down the trees in the mountains and to sell it for garden lands. By the cutting of these trees, the place becomes barren and even the little rain that will pour down escapes. Growth in our lands is affected by the escaping rain water. Besides this, the zamindar is planning for the past two years to sell to those who offer money, the poramboke lands and even the common transport roads.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Up to now have they sold anything like that?

A.—They have sold some lands in last and the previous years.

Q.—How much have they sold like this?

A.—In some villages, they have sold about 200 acres of land.

Q.—Did you not object to such things being done?

A.—We complained before the manager of the zamindar. They refused to do anything against the orders of the zamindar.

Q.—Are these things shown in the Court of Wards survey?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you show in the register filed as an exhibit the number of any land which is a poramboke?

A.—Yes. (Shows an item in the register.)

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Can you show any cash receipt with regard to the above matter?

A.—There is no cash receipt or cash register in our estate maintained. They will issue only new pattas.

Q.—Can you file that patta?

A.—It is not in our hands. It is with either the zamindar or his manager or anybody who is a zamindar's man. Even if lands should be exchanged for cash from one person to another, the patta is not changed. Petition for transfer of patta put, is not attended to. In cases of joint patta the lands are brought to sale even if one person defaults in paying the thirva. The owner of the land is not informed. Patta must be altered at once. If the rate of thirva is high, there is nobody to purchase the lands for cash and also to lend money. If a balance of Rs. 200 remains in the collection of thirva, a land worth Rs. 500 is brought to sale. This is troublesome to the ryots. Such lands which are worth exactly the amount of thirva due should be written off. If the joint pattadar with me remains without paying the thirva, my lands are brought to sale, in spite of my telling it to the zamindar.

Q.—If the lands are brought to sale by the zamindar, who is bidding it?

A.—If a land worth Rs. 500 is written for a balance of Rs. 250 thirva, then the zamindar himself takes it in the auction.



Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Is it good if the other zamindars take property worth Rs. 100 for the sake of a debt of one anna?

A.—It is a loss to us. If thirva is paid for one land, to which land it is paid is not revealed. (He produces a patta.)

Q.—Is it not meant for the land which has that patta number?

A.—It is not told to which land that patta number refers. In our place we were in the habit of giving some gifts to choultries, and devasthanams, etc., i.e., gifts given for feeding the pilgrims as well as those who come to choultries to rest from foreign places. All these gifts are stopped now. We want collection work to be done as it is done in Government area. Jamabandi must be done as it is done in Government areas. Repairs to tanks are not done in the estate and the Government must undertake to repair the tanks. Forest management must be taken over by Government and it must be made useful to the ryots. As it is in the hands of the zamindar even if the Government should reform it, we do not have the least faith in that the zamindar will give them the desired forest facilities. Forest must be removed from the hands of the zamindar. A Revenue officer must be employed and everything must be left under his management. Let the zamindar take the income if he wants.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—You have said that the zamindar was taking away all kinds of liberty from the hands of the common people in direct violation of the agreement entered into in the sannads issued to them by the Government. What did the zamindar do? How did he deprive you of the liberties?

A.—One man cannot be a member. All the landowners must vote for the man proposed by the zamindar alone. If the vote is not given the people are harassed. The zamindar takes away the liberty or right to vote from the people.

Q.—Is it in district board election or municipality election?

A.—In both elections, it is the same case. The vote must be given for the person nominated by the zamindar.

Q.—Is the notice, asking that the vote must be given to a particular person, sent through the Tahsildar or from the Zamin head office or through their sibbandies of the respective persons?

A.—The information is not given in writing but it is sent through servants to be told to the respective persons. At time the notice is also sent printed. Sometimes the people are dragged to put in their votes.

Q.—Can't you act against their orders?

A.—If we act against their orders, our cattle are distrained and put into bounds stating that they have grazed into the home-farm lands of the zamindar; thirva is laid as a punishment stating that punja lands are watered, and cases are laid of having cut wood in the forest.

Q.—What other liberty or right is hindered?

A.—If we own good cattle or sheep they are demanded to be handed over to them.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is the zamindar asking like that?

A.—Zamindar will ask for it and if it is not given, then they begin to trouble the people.

Q.—How does the zamindar know that you are in possession of good cattle or sheep? Is the zamindar asking for them after a personal supervision?

A.—Zamindar will be in his house. If he sees a man leading a good cow or ox or a young sheep, at once he will ask him to hand over and it must be handed over.

Q.—What is the consequence if it is refused?

A.—We will have to face the troubles as narrated before.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Have they done anything for the common welfare of the people? Have they built schools or hospitals for the benefit and comfort of the people?

A.—When the estate was under the management of the Court of Wards they gave some amount for building an hospital. One zamindar, who came after the Court of Ward's time, gave grants for one year. Then it was stopped after his death. There was a veterinary hospital and that too was removed subsequently. Home-farm lands also were dissolved.

Q.—Have they got good cattle and seeds for the improvement of agriculture?  
(No answer.)

Q.—You say if everything is taken over by the Government for management and if all of you become pattadars, there will be no trouble at all. Do you mean to say that the term zamindar itself must be removed and he must be given compensation?

A.—Yes : if it is not done so, a special commissioner must be appointed.



Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—What if, if allowance is given?

A.—That trouble will fall automatically on the shoulders of the common people alone.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—If there should arise any dispute between the zamindar and the tenants, you said that the tenants get defeated in the end on account of want of facilities and money on the part of the tenants. What is that?

A.—The tenants are not able to succeed due to want of money and other facilities.

Q.—Are the cases decided against the tenants in the courts?

A.—If ten persons join together and try to put a case in the court, some of them are given something and the case is turned down or even if the case is filed in a court, the witnesses are disturbed by giving them something and thus, also the case is avoided. We are not able to quarrel with them. Nothing is done in favour of us, the tenants.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—You said, the controlling power or rules are also corrupted. What is that?

A.—All family people must hand over the things they have in their possessions.

Q.—You said that forests are being destroyed. Have they done so?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Can you say which is the forest?

A.—Yes. Ullattupannai, Theriattupannai, Combaikkadu, Vaduganooru.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have the forests been destroyed?

A.—They are cutting down trees.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Is there any ryots' association.

A.—No. At present we do not have any ryots' association to give evidence. All the ryots have come together to give evidence.

Q.—Is it not possible to meet the zamindar frequently?

A.—Those, who carry out the wishes of the zamindar, can see him. Others cannot.

Q.—Have you got direct touch with the zamindar?

A.—No.

Q.—Does the zamindar come to know the exact state of things through his sibbandies alone?

A.—Yes. They tell it to him in their own way.

Q.—Do they file suits?

A.—Yes. They have filed a lot of suits.

Q.—What is the number of summary suits filed in a year?

A.—About 100 to 150 cases.

Q.—Do they issue warrants in summary suits?

A.—No.

Q.—Is your estate surveyed?

A.—Yes. It was surveyed when it was under the management of the Court of Wards, but complete settlement did not take place.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How much land do you own?

A.—I own 9 acres of nanja land and 10 acres of punja land.

Q.—Is it in Sivagiri Zamin?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you got lands in Government villages?

A.—My father owned some lands in Government villages. I have left them for my brothers.

Q.—Do you cultivate?

A.—Yes. I do. At times I let it out on lease.

Q.—How much do you get per acre of nanja, if you lease out your land?

A.—Rs. 10 per acre of nanja land.

Q.—Have you got any agreement for it?

A.—No.

Q.—How much thirva do you pay for that land?

A.—For 9 acres of land I pay Rs. 45 as thirva.

Q.—Can ownership of soil be given to varamdars and lease-holders?

A.—No. It cannot be given.

Q.—Why? What if, if it is given?

A.—I am also prepared to give ownership of soil to lease-holders and varamdars, provided I hear the news that Government is doing so.



Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Are you prepared for giving your lands?

A.—Yes.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is it your own opinion or is it the opinion of your sangam?

A.—It is mine own. I have not consulted others with regard to this matter.

Q.—Will your sangam co-operate?

A.—Yes. It will co-operate, if told so.

Q.—During election times, what is the harm if you ask your relations to vote for a particular candidate chosen by somebody? Is it not reasonable?

A.—I did not say like that. What I told was that everything is done according to the zamindar's wishes.

Q.—Don't you go for canvassing?

A.—No.

Q.—To whom did you put the vote?

A.—I put my vote to the Congress candidate.

Q.—Was it not told in the meeting to give the votes to the Congress candidates?

A.—I did not say.

Q.—What is the harm in telling so?

A.—There is no harm in telling the truth. However, I do not say like that. Every one will only vote as he likes.

Q.—What is the trouble if the zamindar asks you to vote for a particular candidate?

A.—We will be asked to give our votes to one who will do good for the estate. There our rights are taken away. There is no benefit for us in that.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Since coloured boxes have come during election time, how can he know that one has voted for such and such a person?

A.—If anybody should go and tell the zamindar that one has voted for a particular candidate, then at once trouble starts.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—We have got several instances. One man comes in my car and gives his vote to an entirely different person. Another comes in a third person's car and puts his vote to a new man. What do you say for it?

(The witness did not answer.)

Witness No. 212.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Annamalai Naicker of Thenmalai village, Sivagiri estate.

There was a cattle-stand for the use of the tenants in Thenmalai, bearing S. No. 109. The zamindar has assigned 3.51 acres out of it in favour of his mother.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Have you brought that settlement register?  
A.—No. There was a teppakulam which was very useful to the people when there was general scarcity of water. The zamindar has filed it up after having assigned it. There are carrying on cultivation threat at present. In the settlement register it is represented as a tank.

Q.—Is it in the plan? A.—There is no register in respect of Thenmalai. It is in the plan.

Q.—Have you brought here that plan? A.—I have not brought the plan here. The plan in respect of our village has not been traced. I will go to my village and send the record.

Q.—I suppose you have come here only to give your deposition. Why did you not bring it here? A.—It is not with me. It is in the Court. I shall withdraw it and send it here.

Q.—How many years before was the patta granted? A.—Four or five years ago.

Q.—Did you submit a petition? A.—We submitted a petition to the Collector but all to no purpose.

Q.—What is the number of the patta that the zamindar has? A.—The number of the patta is 722.



Q.—How much is the rent? A.—Rs. 3-3-9 per acre. In respect of that patta, there are 3.51 acres.

Q.—How did you know the number of this patta? A.—I have known it through the karnam. We submitted a petition in 1925 for carrying out repairs to the tank. The kilkarisal tank has breached in 1922. In 1926 Mr. Tampoe has passed orders that the tank should be repaired within a year. They have not carried out that order till this moment.

Q.—Have you brought that order here? A.—No. I shall send everything here soon. In a similar manner we submitted a petition in 1935. They have issued a written statement to the effect that they would carry, repair it, before April 1936. They have not commenced the work accordingly. The Collector has directed the Executive Engineer to finish the work before October 1937 and if he failed to do so, he should deposit the cost of that estimate in the Collector's Court. They have not done this either.

Q.—Have they deposited any amount? A.—They have asked for an year's time. It is laid down that one-fourth of the tenants who are paying rents should submit a petition jointly. It is difficult to submit a petition in that manner. Otherwise, it is laid down that money should be deposited. The people have no money to be deposited. This results in much hardship. The Act should be so amended that all those who are interested may file a suit. According to the commutation, the rate of assessment or waram land ranges from Rs. 4 to Rs. 25. The income is far less. In ayan villages the assessment ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How many acres are assessed at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre? A.—About 100 acres.

Q.—Have you brought records relating to that? A.—There is. (He produces a patta.) It is in the patta bearing the number 17. There are five tanks in the Thenmalai village. It is only the surplus water of the Sivagiri tank, etc., that is our source of water-supply. There they convert the dry lands into wet and block up the water. The water therefore does not flow here.

Q.—How many years since they are doing like that? A.—For the last 10 years.

Q.—Have you submitted a petition to the Collector? A.—No. The commutation decree was passed in 1927. At that time, rice was selling at the rate of Rs. 15 or Rs. 18. Now there is no sufficient yield. The price also has fallen. Such is our sad plight. They have commuted Rs. 40.

Q.—Are you prepared to give it in waram according to the old practice? A.—If it is given like that it will be beneficial to the tenants. But the trouble caused by the subordinates is indeed great. It will of course be good to collect without causing trouble. It will be better if the paddy grown is divided and taken.

Q.—What do you suggest as an alternative to that? A.—They should collect it according to the rates prevailing in the neighbouring ayan villages.

Q.—What loss is there in paying one half of the waram? A.—It is of course good.

Q.—On what basis were you paying before? A.—Ten kottais. But we were paying them only 5½ kottais.

Q.—Is it not a fact that you have paid something more than half? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose it is just? A.—It is excessive.

Q.—I ask you whether it will be more excessive than what it is at present? A.—It is difficult on account of the fall in prices.

Q.—I suppose you won't feel any difficulty if you were to make payment in paddy instead? A.—It is alright. But the servants are causing much hardship.

Q.—Let it be. If that were done so, will it not be good? A.—Yes. It will be good. It will be beneficial to the tenants.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You say that it is beneficial. How much do they pay in ayan villages? A.—What they pay ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4½.

Q.—Is this not more difficult than that? A.—Yes. The Government should have under its control, the irrigation and matters relating to assessment.

Q.—You say that settlement should be carried on here as in Government? A.—Yes. I say that the same thing should be done here.



Witness No. 213.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Rangaswami Nayudu of Viswanathaperi, Sivagiri zamin.

If plantain is planted in a plot it is usual to plant brinjal and garlic also in the same plot. They are levying a penalty for every produce. They were issuing pattas in June. Now, without issuing pattas in time, they are issuing them in December and increasing the period of the fasli. In these circumstances, they prepare accounts as they please and we can know the amount of assessment only when we get the assessment sheet. The survey has been made. The settlement has not been done. We cannot know what the extent was originally according to the paimash and what it is now, after the survey. They charge one rate for the cultivation of paddy. It is Rs. 14 for plantain and Rs. 14 for betel leaves per acre. The reasonable rates are As. 12-4, As. 10-5 and As. 7-8. There is dry lands. If well is dug in that land and that is cultivated, they levy three assessments of Rs. 14 for plantains, Rs. 14 for brinjals and Rs. 14 for garlic per acre.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Do you say that they levy extra assessment for the cultivation of sugarcane and plantain? A.—If we cultivate plantain, brinjal and garlic, i.e., if we cultivate all these three in an acre they charge just as they do for 3 acres.

They have assigned kanmois, porambokes, palmyra topes and many other lands. The zamindar has got a concubine. He has assigned the Muthur tank to that woman. He has assigned 4 acres in the Melappannai out of the 11.50 acres of irrigated land constituting S. No. 80. He has assigned 2 acres in Thenmalai and land in Chinna-lapperi. He has assigned all the palmyra topes. There is no place for grazing cattle. They have caused hindrance by assigning all the reserved forests. There was the practice of removing earth and stones from hills. Now they charge two annas and one anna per cart-load for them.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you brought any paper with you? A.—There is none at present.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Have you paid like that? A.—They will give it free of cost for talkative persons like me. They know that I will not care for the zamindar. He will not ask me to pay. There are 20,000 acres of forest land. There are what are called evergreen garden, semi-garden and lower ground. We and the zamindar can enter it. We and the zamindar should not enter the evergreen garden and the semi-garden. They were maintaining them for the sake of rainfall. Now 400 acres of them have been assigned. The evergreen garden has been assigned for cutting the trees and planting coffee and tea.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—It is only if trees are cut that the forest will develop. Is it not? A.—If trees are cut there will not be rainfall.

Q.—So, you say that nothing should be cut in the forest? A.—Nothing should be cut. In the lower ground alone we and the zamindar use to take fuel.

Q.—But they say that unless the trees are cut now and then they will not grow? A.—If the forest is cleared there will not be rainfall. It will be dry everywhere.

Q.—But if they are cut little by little good trees will grow? A.—No. If they are cut they will not grow.

Q.—Do they cut trees in Government reserves or not? A.—They will cut in the lower ground. They will not cut at the top.

Q.—Do you know that in Government forests they cut at the top also? A.—They do not cut. There is also a Government forest in our neighbourhood. Trees are not cut at the top there.

The contract was to the effect that trees could be cut till the year 1952. They have been cut even now. Now a contract has been made to the effect that trees can be cut till the year 1960.

Q.—Is there any record for that? A.—There are accounts with them. We had submitted a petition against the assignment of the kanmoi. As regards the land that the zamindar had given to his concubine, the Collector has declared it unjust. Now they have preferred an appeal in the High Court. We have received summons. We have handed over to the vakil the records that we had with us.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do they collect any other tax during the collection of rent? A.—Some receive sheep and some receive cattle.

Q.—How is it? Are persons who have two heads of cattle to give one? A.—They must certainly give. Otherwise the tenants cannot live.



Q.—Do they collect every year anything else with the rent levied on the patta?  
A.—The zamindar should be paid for the transference of the patta.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How was it in the case of the Court of Wards? A.—We cannot say that in the days of the Court of Wards we bribed all persons. Now we are giving it. Now everybody from the zamindar downwards receives bribes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the amount collected? A.—Atleast Rs. 20,000 will be collected.

Q.—Are there accounts? A.—There will not be accounts for that.

Q.—Do you give mamul or bribe? A.—They are receiving it only as a tradition.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you paid anything? A.—I will not give.

Q.—Who else gives? A.—Ignorant persons will give.

Q.—Have any such persons come here? A.—No. I do not know.

Q.—Why do you not give? A.—We are not asked for the reason that if we are asked the zamindar will be put to trouble by us.

Q.—Do you give to the estate officers? A.—We have to give. We will get information only if we give. Otherwise we will get no information. They have not received salary for five or six months.

Q.—Is not corruption prevalent in the Government? A.—Bribe is accepted even in Government offices. It is of course a public transaction. When I say that there are misdeeds even in the Government, need anybody ask about the zamin.

Q.—What is the extent of your holding? A.—There are 70 acres; 40 acres of wet and 30 acres of dry.

Q.—Do you cultivate it yourself or lease it out? A.—I cultivate it myself.

Q.—Do you know that in the Kodaikanal hills lands are assigned for cardamom plantation? A.—I do not know. At the time of the grant of assessment was required to be levied only for lands which were cultivated. All these (the other places) were intended for the ryots and the zamindars. There are several places such as porambokes, paths, kalam porambokes, cremation grounds and forests. Originally, these were excluded and assessment was levied only for cultivable lands. The zamindar has no power to assign these on any account. If there is to be any assignment, it is only the ryots that should profit thereby. He (the zamindar) spends money as he pleases. There is none to question him about that. We submitted ever so many petitions to the Government. They were not paid heed to.

Q.—If some big tenants lease out their patta land or waram to another agriculturist, can he be given the right to that land? A.—I do not understand what you say.

Q.—Suppose a person has 100 or 200 acres. Several persons cultivate for lease or waram. Can the right to that land be given to the persons who cultivate like that? A.—By all means. There is no objection to giving it to the person who toils hard in a reasonable manner.

Q.—Will the other agriculturists too be of the same opinion? A.—The majority will be of this opinion. Some may object.

Witness No. 214.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Diravia Tevar of Veeramangalampudur, Uthumalai zamin.

The assessment we pay is in excess of the ayan assessment. In Surandai it is Rs. 6. We have to pay even Rs. 30 and Rs. 18.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Have you brought the patta. A.—I have brought it. ("He produces the patta.") During the time of the zamindari the assessment was at the rate of Rs. 12-8-0. It is now Rs. 30 for the same patta.

Q.—Is it for the same patta? A.—In the same village. For the adjoining land. In the case of certain lands alone they have made a permanent settlement. The assessment for those lands is low. They have levied at the rate of Rs. 30 per acre for the neighbouring lands.



Q.—Originally it would have been only payment in kind. When was it changed into cash? A.—For permanently settled land it ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 12. For land for which there was a rate in kind it ranges from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22. In the case of the pannai land, they let their own double waram land on lease for Rs. 12. For the neighbouring lands it comes to Rs. 25. The assessment for one kottai, i.e., for 160 cents is Rs. 20. They have leased out the land for Rs. 12.

Q.—What is the reason? A.—I do not know what it is.

They sell waste land for cash. They lease out the tank, kanmoi and parumbu only for certain persons and collect excessive rates from poor people. They do not collect it from some persons. ("He produces some receipts.")

Q.—Do those who take the lease give receipts? A.—No. They lease out the tank for grazing. I have taken it for grazing my cattle. It is leased out for some persons and is not leased for some. It should be given free. All the tenants should be allowed to graze cattle.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—For how many years they have been doing like this? A.—For the past five or six years they have been doing. They have leased out the other tanks free of charge. They leased out only this tank. They cause hindrance only in the local area. There is a parumbu. Timber will be available therein for. . . They do not allow us to take it. They sell the waste land. They do not carry out the repairs. The yare causing hindrance in this manner. We want conditions similar to those obtaining in the ayan area.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—In whose time was the commutation made? A.—In the days of the Court of Wards. In 1912.

Q.—Have you filed any suit against it? A.—We took action through the court. It proved unfavourable in the Sub-Court. We have now preferred an appeal in the District Court.

Q.—Who have filed it? A.—It is only we tenants that have filed it. One pattadar has filed in respect of every village. They have also preferred a common appeal for the village.

Witness No. 215.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar of Veerakeralampudur,  
Uthumalai zamin.

The permanent tenure is in Melavayal. Kilakkuvayal belongs to me. They levy Rs. 12-8-0 for Melavayal and Rs. 26 for Kilavayal.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Was not this also made permanent even from that time? A.—The karnam has been making it impossible even from then.

Q.—Have you been paying any amount for making it permanent or was it being done regularly? A.—Kajachar did it. He has not done it in a reasonable manner. We conducted a case in that connexion. At that time there was one manager by name Srinivasachariar. Due to his influence it ended somehow. It proved unfavourable to us. Now it is in the appeal stage. In Surandai they levy only Rs. 6. We have been living for the past forty or fifty years. Now there is a suit going on in the Civil Court. The suit is conducted for establishing that we have no right. We are putting forth our claim.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Is it natham land? A.—Only residential site. We have been residing there for a very long time. Now they say that it belongs to them.

Q.—Have you got the plan of the village? Have you got any record? A.—I have not brought them. They are in my village.

Q.—You said that they were conducting some case. Can you file those papers? A.—I do not have them now. I shall send them later on.

Witness No. 216.

Madura.

22nd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Paramasiva Tevar, Kilaveeranam, Uttumalai Zamin.

Witness: For the first time in 1912, commutation decrees have been obtained in Uttumalai Zamin. The zamin had an income of Rs. 90,000 with a peshkash of Rs. 20,000. At present, with the same extent of the zamin, its income is 2 lakhs of rupees. At the time of the commutation the lands were divided into three varieties:

(1) The highest taram of 85 per cent.



(2) The lowest being 15 per cent.

(3) Miscellaneous classifications midway between the limits.

According to this classification an acre is assessed at Rs. 21. The prevailing neighbouring rate is Rs. 6-4-0. The price of 8 cents (1 kurumi) of zamin land is Rs. 44. In the ayan lands the price per acre is Rs. 2,000. Both the ayan and zamin lands are irrigated by one and the same river. Nobody is willing to purchase the zamin lands as they are managed very badly. The lands are auctioned when the ryots are unable to pay the rent.

I own 17-18 acres of land. I had to sell about 8 acres of land being unable to pay the kist. I am retaining possession of the rest, simply for the name of a pattadar. (Files documents to show the prices of land in the respective areas.)

One kota of punja land is 29 acres 12 cents. The thirva for the one kota is Rs. 9. In the ayan land the thirva is only Rs. 5. The punja land as such has been divided into old punja and garden. Different rates prevail for the two kinds of classified land, in spite of our digging wells for irrigation, ourselves under our expense. I pray that there should be only one classification of punja at one rate, as it obtains in the ayan lands.

Distrain proceedings are frequent and the ryots have to bear the heavy costs. We put arrears only in times of distress, in spite of the heavy rate. Collection work may be done as in the ayan lands, through the village munsifs and karnams without stamp duty. Collection work done through Revenue officers would be better than through the Estates Land Act. The estate managers are being paid by the zamindar and so they work for the welfare of the zamindar only, and the grievances of the ryots are not taken note of by them. If the management were to be carried out by Revenue officers, things would have been more efficiently and honestly performed. The lands worth Rs. 100 are brought to sale for such a low sum of Re. 1. Moreover the auction is not properly conducted.

The zamin levies miscellaneous levies. A fee of 2 annas per cart-load of stone for house-building is levied. The communal nature of the rock from which the stone is taken makes the levy unlawful. Right in porambokes must be definitely conceded. (Witness files documents.) The estate charges for manure taken from the beds of tank. (Witness files document to show levy of fees for karambu.) The estate leases the right of taking green manure from the neighbouring porambokes and profits by it, ignoring the rights of the ryots. Naturally occurring sundakai plants are leased out for Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. Women, who go for picking up cow-dung, etc., if they enter the fields of sundakai plants by mistake are put to trouble and at times to compensation even. Mud in the ponds and rubbish and waste matter thrown in pits to be used as manure for lands are also leased out. It is unjust to lease out such things. Even the creeping plants like punkin grown in house backyards are leased out. Cattle and sheep are grazed in waste lands in the village. Compensation is levied if the cattle or sheep should stray into the paddy fields while returning from the grazing fields. All these abovesaid thirva are new creations under the present zamindari. We are all fish eaters and if anyone should catch the fishes in the tanks during night time, criminal case is put against such persons and at times fines to the extent of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 are levied in the sub-courts. We want fishing facility. Fishes coming out of the tanks through channels and sluices are also leased out. We do not possess even that right to catch the fishes that come out of the tanks. We want our lands to be surveyed and settled. We do not know whether the lands in the patta have decreased or increased or remain the same. Thirva is levied on a rough estimate of lands only during commutation period. Repairs to tanks are not done properly and completely according to estimates. Repairs to tanks must be done by the Public Works department. Prepared estimates must be sent either to the Collector or to a Revenue officer and repairs should be done by Board officers. There is no comfort for the people in the estate. Repairs to breach of channels or tanks are generally done after all the water goes out. In our estate remission is granted rarely even in cases of failure of crops. Only if the managers of the zamin are good, remission is given. When the punja lands did not yield, and where I had to pay a vayada (kist?) of Rs. 144, I was given a remission of Rs. 64. Water-supply must be taken into account when thirva is collected, proper remission should be granted when there is scarcity of water. Revenue officers should come and inspect our place every year, so that remission might be granted regularly. Zamindar owns some private property and home-farm lands.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What amount of private property is the zamindar owning?

A.—About 400 to 500 acres of land.

Q.—What does he do with those lands?

A.—He is leasing them out.



Q.—In what way is the tenants affected by it?

A.—The tenants have to pay Rs. 21 as kist for one kota of seeds sown in a land; but half the commutation rate is the thirva for those who have taken lands on lease. Zamindar owns a tope in our estate. He waters his tope from the tank and thus deprives water for the lands of the tenants. Moreover disputes also arise frequently and the tenants are put to an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 in filing cases. Tenants are experiencing troubles from the hands of the zamindar by the leasing of these moses and fishes in the tanks. Ryots are not able to water their lands properly. Therefore the zamin home-farm lands must be handed over to the family people by the Collector or higher Revenue officers taking part in the action and giving compensation to the owner of the home-farm lands. Such lands should be distributed to the pattadars. We earnestly pray that the zamindar must be dispossessed of his private lands. We are also British tenants. When the ayan tenants are living comfortably, we, the zamin tenants, are put to such hardships. We must have our grievances redressed.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Should home-farm lands be given to ryots?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How many acres of land do you own?

A.—I own about 7 or 8 acres of nanja land and 2 to 3 acres of nanja over punja lands and the rest have been sold for the payment of thirva.

Q.—Are there many people in your part without lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the zamindar own proprietorship to the soil?

A.—Yes. He has got proprietorship to the soil. He must have only melvaram right. He must not own homefarm lands.

Q.—When you ask the zamindar to give away his homefarm lands, why not you distribute your lands to persons who do not own any land?

A.—We bought the lands for cash payment. We are paying thirva on it. So there is no necessity for distribution of our lands to others. Moreover the ryots are not affected by our lands. If the zamin owns homefarm lands there arise troubles and disputes in regard to the supply of water. It affects the tenants or ryots. Hence, it is that we request those lands to be disposed of in exchange for some commutation.

Q.—Is it reasonable to ask the zamindars to leave the lands got from their ancestors after spending several lakhs of rupees on them?

A.—According to the sanad issued to them they can have only the melvaram right.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are you prepared to get your lands also divided along with the zamindar's homefarm lands?

A.—Yes. We are prepared to do it when the zamindar does so. There is no difficulty about that. (Laughter.)

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Why not the lands be handed over to the zamindar if the rate of thirva is high?

A.—We do not have sufficient means to manure our lands. There is no adequate supply of water in time. If all these agricultural facilities are given, we will have no difficulty in raising a better yield of crop and also in the matter of paying the thirva. We request humbly for the reduction of the present thirva and the adoption of the ayan rates. We are not able to leave this difficult work and the village and go to some other place, earn something and live freely, because everywhere the same trouble is prevalent and there is no other means of earning our livelihood. There are yet some tenants who have actually left the village disposing of their landed property like forests for some other place on account of their difficulties.

Q.—Are the ryots not allowed to take manure leaves from the forests in the zamin?

A.—There are no big forests in our zamin. Only there are some leaves in the poramboke lands. We must be given right to take those leaves at least for manuring our lands with green manure.

Q.—Is remission given in your zamin and, if so, how much?

A.—Some little remission is given. I do not know the total amount of remission given in the estate; nor the rate of remission per rupee. As far as I am concerned I paid a thirva of Rs. 74. I have no knowledge of how much remission was granted to others. If a person is well known to the zamindar, he is endowed with all comforts and facilities. In the case of an ordinary ryot, facilities given are very poor.

Q.—What is meant by saying "remission should be given completely"?

A.—Thirva must not be collected in cases of failure of crops.



Q.—You all know that the zamindar has to pay peshkash to the Government. How can he pay it if he gives full remission?

A.—Yes. We all do know that he has to pay peshkash: But he has raised our thirva only whereas his peshkash remains the same. The peshkash remains in the same level from time immemorial. He has got stored up 24 lakhs of rupees collected from us by high rate of thirva. Let him pay the peshkash from that amount. (Laughter.)

Witness No. 218.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. W. P. A. Soundarapandiyan, son of Mr. Iya Nadar, aged 44 years, of Pattiveeranpatti, Madura district.

On behalf of the Kannivadi Ryots' Association, I shall first of all submit this memorandum to the Hon'ble the Chairman and the other members of the committee. We wish to fortify the facts mentioned in our memorandum with the several records submitting to you and to represent our grievances. Our first grievance is this: In 1802, the peshkash payable for the existing thirty villages in our zamindari was fixed at Rs. 38,140. The zamindar was getting Rs. 54,485. He was therefore getting Rs. 17,000 in excess. For fasli 1347, the zamindar is collecting by way of assessment Rs. 1,88,934. We very humbly submit that this assessment is excessive in several places and that it has been collected in excess of the settlement amount. It will be clear from Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4, which have been filed in support of this statement, how this assessment has been enhanced by the zamindar in respect of the pattas referred to therein. The difference is clearly noticeable in Exhibits 3 and 4. The assessment has increased 20 times. In 1827, the rate for one kuli—60 cents of land—was 25 panams. It can be clearly seen that it was revised later in 1916. Similarly, the assessment of 15 panams has increased to 17 panams and the assessment of 18 panams has increased to 20 panams.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What was the year? A.—1916. The patta in respect of which a higher amount is demanded is the prior patta. Fasli 1296—nearly 51 years ago.

Witness continues: I wish to produce this before you. The zamindar is collecting garden assessment when he has no statutory right whatever for enhancing the assessment. The tenants have, by their hard labour, dug wells and improved the dry lands. Enhanced assessment is levied in respect of these lands also. I shall prove this with the help of the pattas which I am going to show you presently. This patta shows that the assessment which was 4 panams and 2 panams in respect of 60 cents of dry land was enhanced to 15 panams. Survey No. 256. The assessment of 4 panams has increased to 10 panams and 15 panams. This patta proves this. "Witness files the pattas." This is S. No. 103 in a certain village. The same will be the case in all villages. I have taken one case as an example. In S. No. 133, the assessment has been enhanced from 3 panams to 12 panams. Further, the zamindar collects wet assessment in respect of private tanks which do not belong to him.

The same rate is in force. It may be said that almost the same rate has been in force after the Estates Land Act was amended in 1908. In fasli 1217, when Mr. Peter was the Collector, the assessment was low. This has been enhanced by mutual agreement. An enhanced assessment has been fixed statutorily on the ground that there was some sort of agreement between the tenants and the zamindar. Further, as stated in the second paragraph, wet assessment is collected even for private tank and breached tanks. This can be seen from these pattas. (Witness filed pattas.) Similarly, wet assessment has been levied on tanks which are in a state of disrepair and tanks which have breached. The tenants are not in a position to carry on a fight with the zamindar with a view to coming to an agreement with him in respect of such statutory rights. As the tenants have no facilities for remaining united and as they have not the means to take the matter to two or three courts by spending money from their pockets with a view to securing their legitimate rights, they are unable to carry on a fight with the zamindar and establish their right. It is therefore my view that this difficulty can be got over if provision is made in the Estates Land Act for a suitable penalty or fine with a view to obviating such difficulties statutorily. "The zamindar should not get enhanced rent than what he is legally entitled to and if he collects such enhanced rent knowing or having reason to believe that he is not entitled to such rent he should be made liable to the ryots for damages or penalty summarily recoverable in a revenue court not exceeding twenty times of the enhanced rent illegally obtained by him. This will act as a check against oppressive exactions of enhanced rates without proper justification. This is what we suggest."

The CHAIRMAN observed: "I do not know how far it will be possible."

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—You ask the tenants to go only to the court?

A.—They will be afraid of suits.



Witness continues : I shall show by means of these pattas how inequitable this system of mutual agreement is. Three of pattas include certain provisions. This patta was granted before the introduction of the system of mutual agreement in fasli 1313. I shall read the conditions laid down in this patta if you will kindly bear with me.

(" Witness reads the conditions in the patta.")

Witness continues : In 1929, the wording of the patta was altered into " you and your heirs." It is stated that we have already agreed to execute and satisfy such an agreement. Our view is that it is inequitable. (" Witness filed three pattas.")

Witness continues. It is our view that no assessment should be collected from us in respect of second crops. G.O. R. No. 2730, dated 10th October 1865, Revenue Board's Orders Nos. 50 and 51, G.O. No. 540, dated 3rd March 1869, and an order of the Revenue Board of 1882 bearing on this subject state that there is no justification for collecting second-crop assessment from the tenants. When the tenants asked for a copy, their request was refused by the Government. I shall file that as an exhibit. What is known as tree-tax is a very novel affair. There is a statutory provision to the effect that no tax should be levied in respect of trees which came into existence after 1908. It is laid down that trees which have come into existence after 1908 should be exempt from tax. When many of the trees which were in existence in 1908, that is, nearly 30 years ago have withered or have become useless, tax is collected in respect of these trees. When the tenants ask that they should be exempted from tax, no reply is forthcoming from the zamindar. The witness who will give evidence after me will deal with this matter. Such levies have been collected. If it is asked how the statement that many trees are non-existent can be verified, I shall say that, if any member of this committee makes arrangements therefor, he can satisfy himself about this. If any other official examines whether the trees included in this patta are alive and are bearing fruits, the truth of this statement will become evident. I shall file two pattas to show that the tree-tax is being collected unjustly.

*Grass tax.*—The tenants have got the exclusive right of removing the grass in the tank-beds and the tank-bunds. The zamindar repudiates this right and is gradually claiming it as his own. He forces poor tenants to pay grass tax in respect of the lands occupied by them, the education-cess and such other cesses. This will be evident from an examination of this patta. The zamindar has no right to collect these cesses. This is stated on pages 37 and 38 of Nelson's Manual. (Witness reads extracts from the Manual and files.)

Witness continues : As regards irrigation, all the kanmois in the zamindari are in as bad a condition as they can be. Sambasiva Ayyar, who will give evidence after me, will deal with this matter at length and produce evidence for what he says.

The next point is the forest trouble. The forest rights enjoyed by us are—the tenant has the right to remove freely green manure for his lands without having to pay any tax therefor. We have the right to remove from zamin forest porambokes kora grass, sticks, stones, earth, etc., for constructing houses. Difference of opinion has now been created gradually in the village in respect of these rights, steps have been taken for the payment of the salary of the zamindar's servants by the tenants and some kind of faction has been created through these servants and the poor tenants are being harassed. That such levies are being collected can be testified to by many witnesses. I have many wet lands here. This levy is not collected from persons like me. It is unjustly levied on weak persons and efforts are being made to perpetuate them gradually.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—What is the rate of the grass tax?

A.—It is 2 annas per bundle of fire-wood and half-an-anna per bundle of green manure.

Witness continues : Another point. For the past 140 years, the poor ryot who was without land in our zamindari used to clear the shrub jungle at the foot of hills with the help of spades and sickles and cultivate it for a year and then go to another place after its fertility has diminished and cultivate it. A fee of 3 annas 4 pies per spade is collected. This is unjust. This can be seen from the Hurdis Report and chapter II, pages 39 and 44 of Nelson's Manual. Hurdis was the person who fixed the assessment on land in Madura. Last year, the zamindar filed a case against ten tenants with a view to establishing this right. It has been laid down that the zamindar has the sole right in respect of the forest and the ten tenants have been fined on the ground that they attempted to destroy the forest. This is found in this record. (The witness filed the records.) The village munsif and the karnam have mentioned in their statement that such a practice has been in existence. So, attempts are being made to harass the tenant and put him to lot of trouble through court proceedings by doing things contrary to practice.

*Distraint.*—I know only one thing personally. Instead of adopting the legitimate methods for collecting the kist, the zamindar takes with him a sepoy armed with a



rifle, intimidates the tenants thereby and collects the dues. I have seen with my own eyes this method of collecting the dues. The witnesses who will follow me will testify to the fact that still more objectionable methods have been followed. These are our main grievances. These are the demands we have made.

*Pasture lands.*—The fees now collected for the grazing of cattle on waste lands are excessive. They are 4 panams and 5 panams. The grazing fee may be fixed at 1 panam (3 annas 4 pies). The Zamindar of Idayakottai levies a fee of 1 panam in respect of the waste land reserved for pasture. If waste lands are cultivated, a fee of 2 panams or 3 panams is collected. If waste lands are reserved for pasture, we will find it convenient to pay 1 panam rather than pay 4 panams for pasture lands. Our demand is just. What the zamindar does is unjust. I have not brought records in support of this.

We desire that kist should be fixed in more or less the same manner in which it is fixed in respect of ryotwari wet and dry lands in the adjoining area. The best thing to do is to collect the kist on this basis. (Witness files pattas.) These are pattas in respect of ryotwari lands. One kuli in these pattas is equivalent to 60 cents. The assessment on 60 cents in our zamindari should be only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a rupee, 14 annas and Re. 1-4-0. The assessment on dry lands is excessive. We pay an assessment ranging from 4 panams from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a rupee to Rs. 11 in respect of dry lands. We demand that the assessment on dry lands should not be more than Re. 1-7-9. The assessment should be levied with reference to the nature of the land. It will be advantageous to us. The Committee may do as it likes. The assessment on wet lands should not exceed Rs. 3-6-4. The zamindari kanmois in our parts are dependent only upon rain water. It cannot be said that they are kanmois affording considerable irrigation facilities. It cannot be said that the lands except in one or two places command good irrigation facilities. It will not be proper to fix the assessment in respect of lands depending upon high-level kanmois at a higher rate as in the case of ryotwari lands. In my opinion it is not proper to do so. The method adopted in the Act passed recently in Bihar should be adopted. (The witness filed a cutting from the *Hindu* paper.)

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the provision that has been made in the Bihar legislation? Please give a gist of it.

The witness said that specific suggestions were made for the disposal of rent suits, realization of rent decrees. There should be separate munsifs for trying rent suits in every subdivision.

Witness then continued his deposition: There is another funny thing. There are four hill villages in our zamindari. If a person cultivates hill plantains on some land in these hill villages, the land will be in a good condition for five to ten years. If that tenant fails to cut the plantain trees owing to his inability to do work, the trees will not grow well. An assessment of 8 panams for 60 cents is levied on these lands. If even waste land is cultivated and its condition is improved, an assessment of 8 panams on 60 cents is levied. It is unjust to collect an assessment of 8 panams even when the quality of these lands changes. I therefore request that, as soon as the owner of the land submits a petition stating that the land is being overgrown with shrubs, the officials should inspect the land, satisfy themselves that it is not cultivated and reduce the assessment thereon. All that I have said on behalf of the tenants is within my personal knowledge. I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to the Chairman and the other members of the Committee for having given me so much time and heard me patiently.

Q.—The rent roll which was less then has increased now. Can the extent of cultivation at that time and the extent of cultivation now be ascertained? What is the proportion between the increased extent of cultivation and the increased rent?

A.—I am not able to say that. As far as I know, more lands were cultivated by the tenants subsequent to the payment of 54 thousands in fasli 1212. This cannot be denied.

Q.—Is there any record in the zamindari showing the total wet and dry crop lands?

A.—There may be such a record.

Q.—As regards irrigation works, the present Act lays down that the tenants cannot deposit anything. Do you say that, as far as irrigation works are concerned, the Government should take them under their control and maintain them, that the cost thereof might be recovered from the zamindar and that this will be advantageous to the tenants?

A.—That will be a very good arrangement. That is exactly what we want.

Q.—You said that the zamindar was taking an armed sepoy with him and that the taxes were collected by intimidating the tenants thereby. Will it be a good thing if collections are made through the Government and under their control in such a way that the ryots will not be much in arrears?

A.—The tenant is not afraid of paying taxes. He is not able to pay the tax properly on account of the atrocities perpetrated by the zamindars and their failure to do their part of the work.



Q.—If taxes are collected on behalf of the Government, will they be collected properly?

A.—Arrangement for this can be made statutorily. It is only the village munsif that should collect the taxes.

Q.—Under whose control you think the village munsif should collect the taxes?

A.—The collection of taxes should be done only by the zamindar. If the Government takes over this work, anybody may collect taxes.

Q.—Is any difficulty being experienced under the present practice whereby taxes are collected through the zamindar under the Estates Land Act?

A.—The zamindar's men harass the tenants. I say that such methods should not be adopted.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Has the zamin been surveyed?

A.—Yes. A part.

Q.—How are the rates levied? Are they levied cropwar?

A.—There are three rates, viz., wet, garden and dry.

Q.—Is the assessment the same irrespective of the crop raised?

A.—Enhanced assessment is levied in respect of sugarcane and plantains.

Q.—Is the dry assessment uniform?

A.—Yes. But a higher assessment is levied on tobacco.

Q.—Dry lands have been converted into wet lands. Is there any assessment according to the patta?

A.—There is assessment.

Q.—Is the collection of kist made under the instalment system or otherwise?

A.—They adjust it. There is only one account for a fasli and the kist is collected in a single instalment. Plough cattle are distrained. This is not done in my case. It is done in the case of the poor tenants.

Q.—From whom do they collect the cost?

A.—They collect it from the tenants. This is causing considerable hardship.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—There is already provision in the Act to alleviate those grievances mentioned by you. You have said high rents are being realized even after 1908 by some means or other by a process called 'compromise.' According to the Act, a man is not bound to pay higher rent than the rate prevailing in 1908. No legislature can help such a fraud?

A.—I have proved by records.

Q.—No legislation can help it. Higher rent, than is due, cannot be collected by a zamindar even according to the present Act if they only narrated their grievances, through a petition. This is also illegal under the Act. With regard to the tree-tax, those planted after 1908 are also taxed. There are trees not in existence also taxed. There is provision in the Act, according to the present Act?

A.—We petitioned to the zamindar. No remedy has been done.

Q.—Then about the grass-tax, you can establish your customary right under section 20. As far as I can see all these grievances can be remedied under the present Act. There are sufficient provisions. There is a provision in the Act that no higher rent can be received. No rent on tree can be collected on trees which came into existence after 1908?

A.—It is the zamindar that dissipates the law.

Q.—The tenant is afraid of the zamindar. He is ignorant if he pays the rent to the zamindar to do illegal acts. How could anybody help? That is my point.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—We will have to leave him there, 30 years, the Act was in force. He says his own experience.

A.—It is up to you legislators to find a way out.

Q.—There are two things possible in these circumstances. There is remedy under the present Act. The only thing you can suggest is, either abolish the zamindari system or get your tenants in a way that they do not make themselves victims of this.

A.—It is for the legislators to find ways and means.

The CHAIRMAN:—He says the facts. On the facts the committee will try. He is not expected to make suggestions with regard to legislation.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you want to make illegal collection a penal offence?

A.—Yes, to avoid the evasion of the Act.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Do you suggest that the collection should be made by Revenue authorities?

A.—That is an extreme step.

Q.—Are there any cases to the effect that the tree-tax has been collected? Have they not taken the matter to the Court?

A.—No.



Q.—Are there no cases regarding the illegal collection of enhanced rents?

A.—No case.

Q.—Where did you get this information regarding Rs. 120 by way of income the zamindar gets from the hills?

A.—' Hurdis ' report.

Q.—Is there anything to show that the ryots have free access to the hills? Is it your contention that the tenants have got a right in these hills?

A.—This is what we were enjoying all these years. The zamindar wants to get rid of that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Your point is that rents are high?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you applied to the Collector for the reduction of rent under the Estates Land Act?

A.—It is not possible. They have not done that.

Q.—I suppose all the cattle are allowed in the forest of the zamindar?

A.—Cattle of the ryots are allowed in the porambokes and tank bunds.

Q.—Was that the custom before?

A.—Yes. From 1918, I have sent memorial.

Q.—I suppose, you are well aware that even Public Works Department sells the bunds of the canal by auction?

A.—I have no idea.

Q.—What do you mean about "Distrain of movable property"?

A.—Zamindars collect their rent by show of armed force.

Q.—What do you mean by that?

A.—They are taking armed men. Peons armed with gun and lathi.

Q.—Are they estate sepoys or men belonging to the police?

A.—Estate sepoy.

Q.—What is your suggestion?

A.—My suggestion is that they should not go anywhere. The moment they see the sepoys they run away.

Q.—What do you suggest? Do you want the zamindar to collect the rent?

A.—I do not suggest that.

Q.—Don't you think, the zamindar should be given the facility to collect his rent, without much expense to the ryot and the zamindar?

A.—In the case of ryotwari lands munsif and karnam come for collection. Here also they could come.

Q.—You have no objection if the same principle and the same rules of the Government area are applied here also. Some way of collection?

A.—Some people have objection.

Q.—Have you any objection to the same principle being applied here for the collection?

A.—I should say that the existing system of the zamindar agents collecting the taxes should remain. I prefer the zamindar agents to collect the taxes.

Q.—I suppose, even now, in many of the villages, I do not know about southern districts especially northern districts, village officers collect taxes even for the zamindars under zamindars' control?

A.—To my knowledge there are one or two here also.

Q.—Don't you think in the Government villages that the collection of rent by the Government is much easier and less expensive both to the tenant as well as to the Government?

A.—Yes; I say that.

Q.—In a similar way don't you think there should be some provision in the Estates Land Act for the zamindar to collect the tax without much expense both to the tenant as well as to himself, so that he can get his legal dues?

A.—As a matter of fact on behalf of the Association, we have explicitly informed the tenants to pay the kist. Our demand is a legitimate demand, which we want the zamindar to do. If this is done, there is no difficulty to collect the tax.

Q.—What is the demand?

A.—This demand is the repair of tanks and allowing the people to have forest produce. If all the grievances I have said against the zamindar are rectified, I do not think these tenants would refuse to pay the kist. These are the difficulties why the zamindar resorts to illegal ways of collecting rent. If this is done, there is absolutely no difficulty in paying all our rents. As a matter of fact, there are big ryots who pay the rent regularly. The zamindar gives facilities to them. But the poor people alone wait for the last auction day.

Q.—My idea is that the poor ryot pays but not the tenant?

A.—I am a tenant.



Q.—As regards the forest, a portion of the forest should always be kept reserved and a portion should be kept unreserved for the use of the tenant population. Unless you keep a certain portion of the forest reserved, you won't have forest at all after some years?

A.—If the ryots are given the first privilege of having all these facilities, a certain portion could be reserved.

Q.—Reserving a certain portion of the forest and keeping a certain portion unreserved, and allowing your tenants to take fuel from the unreserved forest, don't you think it very desirable?

A.—They would have free scope to collect their manure from the zamin forest and make use of it. If there is any forest left that can be reserved, I do not want the whole forest to be reserved and a certain portion to be unreserved.

Q.—Don't you think it desirable to keep certain forest in reservation, so that it will be of use, later on both to the tenant and the zamindar?

A.—It is good.

Q.—You are not for allowing the Government to collect rents for the zamindar?

A.—No.

Q.—You want the zamindar's agent to collect?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—What is the reason?

A.—What other agency can be brought?

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—You are not for the private agency. You want through the village munsif?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Let one man collect. If there is any default he will be criminally prosecuted and taken away. You want a particular man who has been authorized by the zamindar to collect rents. If that man is removed and another man sent in, he should have proper authorization so that the people may know, he is the man to collect rent?

A.—I should prefer the village munsif.

Q.—I welcome the suggestion. Don't you think the zamindar will have no control over him? But if the zamindar has control over the village officer to nominate, to send punishment, in that case, don't you think the zamindar has some control over the village officer? Then you can ask the village officer to collect rent?

A.—I think there is some control over the village munsif. Unless the zamindar has some control, it is absolutely no good.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Don't you know the zamindar has power to fine village munsifs and karnams to the extent of Rs. 100?

A.—No.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—You want some control over the village officer?

A.—If there is power in the Act it can be utilized. The existing power is sufficient.

Q.—I suppose you are one of the biggest ryots in the zamindari?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you cultivate the land yourself?

A.—Every bit of land is cultivated by me. There are no sub-tenants under me. I have an extensive area about two thousand acres.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the amount you pay to the zamindar?

A.—2,500 rupees. Some are forest lands.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Were you very regular in payments of rents?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Have you paid your rent for this fasli 1347?

A.—Up to 1346 I have paid. For 1437, I have time under the Act. This current fasli, they have not started collecting. I am one of the regulars. According to the Act, they should not collect after October. After the introduction of this Act (Debt Relief Bill) they had collected on 5th November 1937.

Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai observed that the Act had not come into force.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—In your zamindari are there any village panchayats?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Village panchayats under the Local Boards Act?

A.—Major unions and panchayats.



Q.—From your experience, there are I suppose factions and parties. In every panchayat board there are always two parties. Majority of the panchayats?

A.—That is true. There are very few villages where there are no factions.

Q.—That is your experience as an M.L.C. also. Previously, you were an M.L.C. As a politician your experience is that in all these village panchayats, district boards and taluk boards they are always in a majority and the majority of them are factious?

A.—Panchayats were superseded as there were factions. When there is difference of opinion, there are factions.

Q.—In every village there are factions.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—That is what he says.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Such differences can be made up. If properly worked up all these factions would go?

A.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What do you think the cause of faction, generally speaking?

A.—Some cases jealousy, some election contests developed into factions.

Q.—If the people are made to understand that they are fighting for nothing, that they should be in good relation with one another, would the factions be settled?

A.—If proper people interfere, they can settle.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—The zamindar creates these factions?

A.—Most certainly. There are paid men for the job.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—Don't you think that the old factions that have been existing had disappeared recently, when people have been working for the common cause?

A.—I beg to differ. In certain places like that, one cannot definitely say. If there is an election, it will be known. If there is a fight between two candidates it will be known.

Q.—You do not say that your people in the villages are incapable of improvement?

A.—They can be improved. After I have organized this association, there is every scope for improvement.

Q.—Supposing the panchayats are given enough money to carry on their administration and to regulate their irrigation sources, water-supply and all those things, if they are given enough power within their villages, do you think they will fight and quarrel among themselves?

A.—I do not think. These irrigation facilities must be entrusted to the panchayats. If it is in the hands of one man of the village, if it is in the hands of the zamindar, he would use it differently. It is better a committee of the village panchayat is appointed to look after irrigation sources.

Q.—If they have enough work, they will not fight among themselves?

A.—They won't.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Even in the Government villages there are factions?

A.—Yes. There are. In my village there is no faction.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—If the disputes in the villages are decided by the village people through the panchayats, do you think the cause for the faction will disappear?

A.—If the villagers could not make up their differences, some big man from the adjoining village interferes.

Q.—If the disputes are not settled among themselves, they go to higher courts?

A.—Villages abhor to go to court. It is the touts.

Q.—You admit now that the village faction is largely due to touts?

A.—Yes.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—If the panchayats are working properly, don't you think that the collection work may be entrusted to them?

A.—The collection work cannot be entrusted. It is better it is collected by the Government and the zamindar. If the work is entrusted to a man and if he is given money and also power, there is every possibility of mismanagement.

Q.—Remission was given in your village for failure of crop. Is it a fact?

A.—In very few cases. If the zamindar likes he gives remission.

Q.—You say, exemption should be taken away. What is your idea?

A.—They want that the plough also should be attached.

Q.—They want power of eviction of unauthorized occupation. What is your idea?

A.—The other witness would give more details. It is not safe to entrust such powers.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you think they should have such power?

A.—If proper prices are given by the zamindar, I do not think that power is necessary.

Q.—Have you studied the Estates Land Act?

A.—No, Sir. As a layman I know the practical side of it.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—You say that they have been collecting tax for green manures, wood for agricultural purposes. How long since they have been doing?

A.—About ten years ago.

Q.—Have you got any receipts for such payments? Can you produce them?

A.—No. He leaves the forest produce to a contractor.

Q.—For green manure and wood for implements, you said something is charged. If this is so, you should have some receipts with you.

A.—We have got.

Q.—Have you produced?

A.—No. This system has been introduced recently.

Q.—Even then you must have some receipts?

A.—I shall produce them.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—May I know the cost of the wet land approximately?

A.—1,000 rupees. Wet lands by parts from 200 rupees to 1,000 rupees.

Q.—Dry lands?

A.—25 rupees to Rs. 100.

Q.—Are there wells?

A.—If the wells are sunk by the zamindar we should have been happy. Zamindars have not done it.

Q.—If the zamindar had dug wells, you have no grievance?

A.—If they dig wells, we have absolutely no grievance.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—You are not cultivating all the lands yourself?

A.—I am cultivating the lands myself.

Q.—Are there any under-tenants?

A.—None.

Q.—Are there under-tenants to your knowledge?

A.—There are absentee landlords.

Q.—With regard to these under-tenants, don't you think that some permanent tenure is given to the under-tenants?

A.—If there is dispute between sub-tenant and tenant, there will be need for provision.

Q.—To avoid disputes, if there is, under-tenants occupying the soil, don't you think occupancy right be given to them?

Q.—Do you not think that it is reasonable to confer some sort of right on the tenant who is working in virtue of the right vested in the pattadar? They work for the absentee pattadars. Do you not think that it is but equitable to confer some sort of right on the tenant?

A.—It is not the practice in my zamindari.

Q.—Do you not think that it is equitable and reasonable to confer some rights on the tenant?

A.—It should certainly be conferred on him.

Q.—Do you not think that it is but proper that the under-tenant who works on the soil should be given a right in respect of the reduction of tax by the zamindar and of other matters? Is it not proper that the under-tenants should secure some benefit?

A.—The condition of the under-tenant will improve as soon as the hardship of the tenant in the zamindari is removed and his condition improves. If conditions are favourable, one who pays 5 kalams as lease amount will pay 6 kalams.

Q.—Will you confer statutory rights on the under-tenants?

A.—I have no objection. I am not a capitalist.

Q.—Is it the opinion of your Committee that the under-tenant should also be given the occupancy right? The actual tiller of the soil should be given the occupancy right?

A.—I think, I am in favour of that.



Q.—I suppose, you know in some case at any rate, there are some persons owning large extent of land, simply lease out their land to the under-tenant and live a happy life. There are some people like that?

A.—Not to my personal knowledge. I have heard of it in Tanjore district.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—The under-tenant—a man who is also a varamdar—should be given rights to the property. The under-tenant should have purchase right; the right of occupancy.

A.—The existing system is not like that. I will prefer that.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—I do not want the zamindars to go out. It may be possible to change the Estates Land Act. What we want to know is whether you want the occupancy right to be given to the under-tenant also?

A.—Unless there is a grievance. If there is no grievance, what is the need for it?

Q.—Do you want any legislation to be made to the effect that the under-tenants should be given the occupancy right?

A.—When the time comes, when the under-tenant complains about the actions of the tenants it is left to the legislatures to do this. There is no need as far as my zamindari is concerned. I can talk as far as my zamindari is concerned. The varamdar will occupy as long as he behaves properly.

Mr. MAHABOOB ALI BAIG : Q.—No complaint on the part of the under-tenant. That is what you say?

A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What is the share you get from the under-tenant? What is the proportion the tenant gets from the under-tenant?

A.—In case where there is waram, if it is wet land this is half and half. Under-tenant gets half the gross produce and the tenant gets half the gross produce.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—The expenses are borne by both the people?

A.—In certain cases.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you think the share is a fair proportion?

A.—I have no experience. I cannot say.

Q.—As the Secretary of the Association you are giving the evidence, not as an individual?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You have in your zamindari, lands which have not been leased out?

A.—There are.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Same proportion, half and half?

A.—In certain cases.

Witness No. 219.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sambasiva Ayyar, aged 47 years, son of Mr. Sankara Ayyar, Anaipatti village, Kannivadi zamin.

I have dug a well in the village of Chintalagundu and am cultivating the garden. The assessment for the garden is 10 panams. As cultivation is carried on by baling out the river water, an assessment of 10 panams has been fixed. Now water-rate has been levied. It is 'thana' assessment.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What does it mean? A.—We may call it water-rate or additional assessment.

Q.—Was there no assessment before that? A.—No. The assessment in respect of dry land in the neighbouring zamin is 4 panams whereas it is 10 panams here. The zamindar takes 'sources of irrigation' to mean riverside and has levied the water-rate.

Q.—How much have they levied? A.—They have levied Rs. 19-12-0 per kuli 5½ and a water-rate of Rs. 18-12-0. ('In this connexion the witness files 2 pattas.') The survey number 657 has 7 subdivisions and 3 assessments. They are 17, 10 and 8 panams. In the village of Tamaraikulam, there is faisal tank dry land. As the tank has not been repaired, they have assigned 'nirppidi' in respect of it and have levied the dry rate of assessment. The zamindar has granted the village of Tamaraikulam in inam to the people of Anaippatti after receiving 615 rupees. They may enjoy 'kodai' and free of all tax. 'Kodai' means second crop. Ten kulis of dry land have been provided in the deed.



Q.—Who granted it? A.—The zamindar of Kannivadi granted it in January 1728. ('Witness files copy of the deed, "Hindivu" translation.')

The 10 kulis of dry land are for grazing cows. But wet crops are being cultivated therein. A kuli is equal to 60 cents. The total is 6 acres. Tamaraikulam is 'nirppidi' land. Wet crops are cultivated therein now. Now it has become wet land. ('Witness files the "inavali" for fasli 1936.')

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—'Communal lands converted into ryoti lands?' A.—They have granted pattas in respect of 'nirppidippu' land to 3 persons.

Q.—'How much of the communal land?' A.—Ten kulis. ('Witness files subdivision charge receipt for Rs. 3.')

'Tamaraikulam tank is used for storing water. Patta is issued.' The survey number of the tank is 128. They have divided Tamaraikulam into subdivisions and have granted pattas to 3 persons. There is not sufficient water for the faisal wet land in the Tamaraikulam village. While this is so, they irrigate the water to all the neighbouring dry lands and collect assessment. They have granted patta for irrigating water to the faisal dry land. The faisal dry land is the wet land of the Tamaraikulam village. There is patta in respect of it as wet land. (Files patta.) The assessment on the dry land bearing survey number 681 is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  panams,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  panams and 7 panams. It is a single patta and a single survey number. The zamindar himself thought that the assessment was exorbitant in Satrapatti and reduced it. Why should he not reduce it in the other villages? He has levied it at the rates of  $14\frac{1}{2}$  and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  panams. What is the sin that we committed? He has reduced the assessments which were above 10 panams. We have purchased in auction  $2\frac{3}{4}$  kulis of land in the village of Tamaraikulam for Rs. 750. The arrears of assessment are Rs. 83-6-6. They have valued 3 kulis at Rs. 255. The date of sale was 24th January 1938. No one bid. They did not postpone the date of sale but the zamindar bought the land in auction on the same date for 8 annas. It is 3 kulis. What is stated in the deed? It is that if the zamindar bids the land, he should take it for Rs. 83-6-0. The selling officer was party to the action of the zamindar and confirmed the sale. It is noted in the deed. ('Witness files the sale deed.')

Three places of the Chintalagundu village were mortgaged to us on 15th January 1937. They were brought to auction. No one bid. While so, the sale should have been postponed to the next day. This was not done. The men of the zamindar bought the land which was valued at Rs. 212 by the zamindar for Rs. 9 and another land valued at Rs. 50 for Rs. 26. They bought for Rs. 33 another land, the price of which was noted in proclamation as Rs. 96. When no one bid, the selling officer should have adjourned the sale to the next day. We wrote a letter that he has no authority for not doing so and for selling the lands as he liked on the same date for a price less than the amount noted in the proclamation of sale. But they confirmed the sale.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What is the cost of cultivation for wet lands? A.—The total cost for a wet land of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  kulis is Rs. 41-2-6. I file an extract of the account written up by me for my own cultivation in 1929. ('Witness files the extract of the account of cultivation expenditure.')

I got Rs. 100 from 25 kalams of paddy at Rs. 4 per kalam and Rs. 19 from grass. The total was Rs. 119. Excluding the expenditure of Rs. 40 I got Rs. 79. Now the price of paddy is Rs. 2-8-0 per kalam. The paddy, which sold at the above high price in 1929, now sells at Rs. 2-12-0. 'Cost of cultivation gross produce in 1929.' If the value of the land is Rs. 100, the zamindar takes it in auction for 9 annas. ('Witness files the district gazette').

The Velangulam tank of Kasavanampatti has gone into disrepair. It is now 8 years. If the people cultivate dry crops, they levy the assessment for wet crops. If there is wet land, there should be a tank. A tank should have a survey number and a tank bed area. In the Kasavanampatti village, where is the Peddunaickenpatti tank? It is completely not known. The paimash number of the tank, the extent of the tank water spread area and the tank bed area are not found in the survey register. They have classified it as wet and are collecting assessment accordingly.

There are now 4 tanks. Marudangulam is a private tank. They levy the wet rate of assessment in respect of it. Its survey number is 197. When they collect money, they collect the expenses of auction in addition. The Government do not sanction refunds to the farmer. (Files receipts.)

The demand in respect of patta number 166 is Rs. 54-2-10. The tenant has paid a penal assessment of Rs. 37-1-7 for having used the canal water. If he is to pay like this, is he to go to ruin?

The zamin officer went to a village last week and has obtained a statement that a kuli is worth Rs. 200 or 300. It is true. But the wet lands should be valued at Rs. 10 per kuli and they should be brought to sale for arrears of rent. The rent of Rs. 10 is



fair and equitable. The statement obtained that a kuli was worth Rs. 200 or 300 is a false statement. ('Witness files the district gazette.')

Some tenants in the village have submitted a petition. ('Witness files.') It is my suggestion that some provisions should be made.

Provision may be included in the Act I of 1908 that an application to the Collector of the district by the defaulting ryot from the person having interest to the holding to set aside sale on account of illegality, material irregularity or fraud in public or conducting sales for an application under Rule 90, Order XXI, Civil Procedure Code, is costly and ruinous.

They bring Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri. They may go up to the High Court. Where are we to go?

In respect of minor tanks Rs. 100 are required. The people are thinking that, as they have no means for paying money and submitting a petition, they cannot fight it out even if repairs are not made. The rate in force at present is provisional.

The following sub-clause to section 138 may be added:—No ryot or ryots holding land under the landholder in the ayacut of irrigation work deposit such amount not exceeding 20 times his or their rents in the case of major irrigation works or 10 times his or their rents in the case of minor irrigation works as may be demanded by way of security. Individual rights should be granted for filing suits.

*Sale Revenue Inspector Zamin Officers' provision.*—Section 212.—'If any person under colour of this Act distrains, sells or causes to be sold illegally, fraudulently or irregularly any property shall be liable for damages not exceeding 10 times the market value of the property on application to the District Collector' may be added.

If it is like this, they cannot sell it in auction for 8 annas.

*Partition of the land.*—The Zamindar is responsible to subdivide the land at the rate of 10 kulis for a subdivision and to levy the assessment. While so, why does he charge for the subdivisions?

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—'Do you know that in Government villages they do not collect subdivision charges?' A.—Yes.

*Hill villages.*—They were not originally surveyed in 1802. They have included a peshkash of Rs. 85 as 'sornadayam,' tree-tax and 'punakkadu.' They have reserved 4 villages for the use of the tenants. They have granted pattas in respect of all of them and are collecting an assessment Rs. 2,700 per annum. The land was not originally surveyed. The net amount after assessment has not been included in the aggregate. They do not pay 70 per cent to the Government in respect of the hill villages. If they take over the hill villages, we have no facilities in other ways.

There are 61 faisal tanks in this zamin. So far as I know, they do only meagre repairs to 6 or 7 tanks. If there are breaches in the other tanks, the tenants repair them. They make the repairs only for the rainy season. They collect the assess for wet crops. Mr. P. Subramanian spent seven thousand rupees and constructed a dam during the last 12 years. It is absolutely of no use. Recently they spent three thousand rupees on it. Finally they had to demolish it.

'Seven channels are silted up.' Out of 61 tanks, only 5 or 6 tanks are in a working condition and that is because the tenants do some minor repairs and store the water during the rainy season considering the hardship caused to them.

Tippampatti tank is in the Kasavanampatti village. It has to irrigate some wet lands. They have a small portion of its tank bund area to some patta. It is not known on what principle they did this. If there are 10 pattadars, and 2 or 3 kulis are included in the total patta of each person, it will become a private tank. Why do they levy the wet rate of assessment?

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—How? A.—The Government survey was made in 1925. They attach 10 kulis out of the total area to the patta. It may not have a survey number. Thus the area of the tank is attached to patta land. They levy the wet rate of assessment in respect of the private tank.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—How many years is it since the new Diwan took charge? A.—Three years.

Q.—Have repairs been done after he took charge? A.—He is now doing the repairs. They will be noted in the accounts as Rs. 1,000. But repairs would not have been done for more than Rs. 300.

Q.—Who is responsible for this? Is it the Diwan? A.—'I do not know who is responsible. A sum of Rs. 1,000 is set apart for the same tank next year.'



Q.—Do they let it out on contract? How? A.—They only say that it is the zamin contract. They let out the tanks to a third person on contract and watch his work and have the repairs done. I brought some persons for the contract. They said that they had let it out to a third party before I went. Three years have elapsed. It will be beneficial if the contract is given to the ryots and they will do the work better.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you say from personal experience that they do not give the contract to the ryots? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were they giving the contract to their own persons formerly? A.—They never give it to the ryots. It was never the practice.

Q.—In the Government areas also, is it not a common practice to buy lands for a nominal price in rent sales? A.—I have no personal experience of the Government practice.

Q.—Is it not a fact that the ryots have not left the land even though the land had been purchased by the zamindar at auction in the rent sales for defaults in the payment of rent? A.—If Rs. 40 are levied instead of Rs. 20, how long is the tenant to pay it? They take the lands in auction and are behaving obstinately thinking that they can see to it if the tenants go to the lands.

Q.—If lands are taken in auction sales, do you retain them without handing over charge? A.—We have indeed to be stubborn. The patta is in the name of the zamindar.

Q.—I suppose you are not paying the rent. 'They are enjoying free rent.' A.—The patta is in the name of the zamindar.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do they levy the assessment like this for all the lands? A.—There is no assessment. The patta is in the name of the zamindar.

Q.—Is a notice issued? A.—No. He is enjoying it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—'Have you complained about your grievance to the zamindar at any time either in writing or orally?' A.—This is my personal experience. An assessment of Rs. 125 was in arrears in respect of a land. I asked the manager and the Diwan for a reduction of Rs. 5 in the interest. Under the law I had to pay Rs. 55. Though I was bound to pay their assessment, I asked for a reduction of Rs. 5. As they said they cannot reduce even a pie, I sent Rs. 55 by money order. On this, they ceased asking for the assessment. I had a gain of Rs. 65. There are no trees in the forest. I had submitted a petition that sornadayam should not be collected. Sornadayam is the tree-tax. Now their point is to collect as much as they can. The arrears of rent have not been paid. They passed an order that my petition will be attended to.

('Witness files the order.') There was a uniform rate from fasli 1227 to 1317. After compounding, they have levied the assessment as they liked. ('Witness files the Sirangadu village settlement register.')

Witness No. 220.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. T. R. Venkatasubba Bagavathar, Secretary, Chatram Ryots' Association, Tirukkarangudi Endowment Inam Estate, Tinnevely district.

Tirukkurungudi chatram is a survey inam village. I depose evidence 'on behalf of the ryots.' The village is under the control of the South Tinnevely District Board. The present annual revenue from it is about Rs. 25,000. The assessment levied in this village now is average assessment. A settlement has been made according to the 'survey and record of right.' There are 421 pattadars in this village. There are two villages, the other being Nambipuram village. There are 200 pattadars there. Thus there are about 600 pattadars. The assessment was in terms of paddy here up to 1,871. Till then the village was under the management of the Government. In the days of Mr. R. K. Puckle, commutation was made in respect of the village as a whole. As the current price was then Rs. 6, the assessment was fixed at Rs. 5 per kottai and commutation made accordingly. Then assessment was fixed in terms of the rupee. Afterwards, one-eighth of the assessment was collected in kind for the use of the chatram for more than a portion. Thereafter one-sixth of the assessment was collected in kind and the remaining five-sixth were collected in cash. Paddy is collected for a portion. The assessment in force is about Rs. 35-12-0 per acre including the above assessment of



one-sixth for a portion. The total average assessment is Rs. 71-12-0. (Witness files statement.) In the memorandum which we submitted we had requested that the assessment should be levied as in the ayan villages. The assessment in respect of a double crop lands is Rs. 15, Rs. 12 or Rs. 10-8-0 per acre in the three ayan villages in the neighbourhood. There is no higher assessment. The hardship caused in the matter of double-crop in the zamin is unequalled. All hardships which can exist under the law exist here. Hence I requested you to allow me to suggest some statutory modifications to be carried out. When they grant pattas, they include therein some items for which there is no assessment and also penal levies, tree-tax and compensation amounts. The patta should be revised and it should be provided therein that no other assessment should be included in it.

*Section 3 (11) (a)* speaks of 'fee or sum lawfully payable'. While it is said 'lawfully payable', it is unjust to collect everything, in contravention of that provision. Some taxes are levied in addition. The words lawfully payable should be made more clear.

*Section 12 (1)*.—The trees are all not taxable. The tenants realized that the trees belonged to them and enjoyed them formerly. But subsequently they ceased to enjoy them. It has been arranged as if they have some right only to the trees for which assessment is paid. We alone have a right to the other trees. They should be handed over to us. I request that the rights in respect of trees which existed from before 1908 should be granted to the ryots as in the case of trees which came into existence later. *Section 12 'ryots right to trees'* should be revised.

*Section 17 (a)*.—Provision is made for the landholder to enter into the land on certain occasions. They are enabled to enter the land not only for the purpose of measuring but also for other purposes. When the village officers entered the lands, they did so without previous intimation and after disarranging the fencing of the garden. The section has to be amended providing that they should not break through the fencing and that they should enter the land only after giving previous notice to the ryots.

*Section 38—'Reduction of rent'*.—This section is advantageous only to those who pay the assessment in cash. It does not allow any person who pays part of the rent in kind to submit an application under this section. Facilities should be provided for those who pay a portion of the rent in kind to apply for reduction of rent under this section.

*Section 51—'Contents of pattas and muchilikas.'*

They include in the pattas compensation amounts, penalties and other levies under account Nos. 6 and 7. They should not be so included. The section should be amended so that this provision is not enforced.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—You do not appear to have said anything new? A.—I say that it is in the book. The administration of the district board is adverse to us.

*Section 54—Tender and pattas.*

They grant pattas to the tenants. The president of the district board conducts the jamabandi at the end of June. They prepare the pattas and issue them after taking an acknowledgment in the muchilika. Whenever the pattas are transferred, they have been writing other matters therein. If we object that this should not be done, they still continue to write them. If the jamabandi is conducted at the end of the month, no one can obtain pattas or tenders. If we say that we will not take them, they will write that tenders have been given. They conduct distraint proceedings presuming that the pattas and muchilikas have been correctly transferred in the tenders, without themselves actually doing so. It is provided in the new Act that in the case of tenders and pattas, a copy of a patta should be sent by post. It will be noted in their register of accounts that a copy was sent by post. Some persons may get it by post and some others do not get it. Complaints are received. The occasions when the copies were not given in person are few. Amendment should be made that a copy of the patta should be sent by post to the persons to whom it is not given in person.

*'Remission—Waste and witherings'*.—There is no provision in the Estates Land Act for remission in cases of waste and witherings. Provision should be made. Waste and witherings occur once in three years.

*Section 56—'Enforcement of pattas.'*—There is provision for the landholders to enforce the pattas if the tenants refuse to accept them. But they do not make use of that provision. Provision should be made to make them enforce the pattas.

*Section 60—'Arrears of rent'*.—They collect the assessment in respect of a fasli in four instalments. This is only a provision for them to facilitate collection but they do not collect like that. They collect it in a single instalment. They will begin to



collect the assessment in respect of a fasli in the next fasli. They were charging interest from July. Later, they fixed the 15th of May and are charging interest from that date. Thus we have to pay an additional two months' interest. It should be provided that this interest should be paid from the beginning of the next fasli.

*Section 63.*—'Contents of valid receipt.'

They give a receipt under this section. They note therein only the number of the holding and the number of the patta. If a person sells part of his land to another, the portion other than that sold remains with the pattadar. If the purchaser pays the assessment due in respect of his land, they refuse to give him a receipt noting therein the land in respect of which the money is paid. They distrain the land of the purchaser for arrears of assessment due from the pattadar though the purchaser has paid the assessment in respect of his land. They should give a receipt noting therein the assessment due on the land and the land for which the amount is paid. The section should be amended so as to provide that the 'holding or part of the holding on account of which the rent has been paid, survey number and subdivision number or' adangal number are noted therein.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—'You should be given a receipt showing the contents in detail.' A.—Yes.

*Sections 68 to 70.*—Matters relating to deposit of rent.

If we pay the money to them, they decline to receive it. A dispute arose. There is much trouble and cost in paying it in the Collector's office. Remittance by money order should be provided in the section. Facilities should be provided as in sending money orders for ayan rent and as in the case of the revenue money orders.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Why do they refuse when you send a money order? A.—They decline to receive it.

*Section 110.*—Even if we say, "we will pay the assessment. Please do not make a distraint. We will pay the assessment under protest", they refuse to note in the receipt that we paid the assessment subject to a dispute. They refuse to note therein that the assessment was paid under protest. This section should be suitably amended.

'*Section 112—Notice of intention to sell holding.*'—It is provided in this section that notice should be given to the defaulter. Notice should be also given to the person who enjoys the land.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—'You want an amendment to every section. A.—I have finished.' The estates should maintain compulsorily the enjoyment register up to date. Otherwise, the land is sold in auction without the knowledge of the person who enjoys it, for the fault of the pattadar who is the defaulter. It should be provided that a notice should be sent to the person who enjoys the land.

*Section 117.*—We have to incur expenditure for matters like 'publication of sale order and proclamation.' It will be sufficient if the ryot and the enjoyer are informed by registered post about proclamation, etc.

*Section 126.*—In the matter of distraint, for arrears of Rs. 10, they distrain lands which are worth more and which relate to 5 pattas. An upset price should be fixed in consultation with the Tahsildar.

*Matters relating to court.*—In the memorandum submitted by the District Congress Committee regarding court matters and settlement of rent, it has requested that appeals relating to rent should be heard in the revenue courts and the revenue board. But this should not be so. The revenue courts do not consider summary suits as a matter of importance. No Magistrate attends to them. The Magistrates hear criminal cases up to 5 p.m. and then adjourn these suits. They cause much annoyance in the matter of the summary suits. Hence there should be a sub-court. Even if we file these suits in the civil court, it has many other cases to attend to. According to the Estates Land Act, the sub-court should be situated at the district headquarters.

Q.—Though it is situated at the headquarters, will it not be difficult to go to Madura from the villages? A.—'The sub-court may be in a central place.' I suggest that one for a district will be enough.

*Jamabandi.*—Jamabandi should not be conducted at the end. It should be done a month earlier. During jamabandi they affix the facsimile signature. No enquiry is made.

*Endowment estates.*—Facilities should be provided for the ryots from the remainder of the endowment amount after meeting the expenses for the purpose for which it was made. Mr. R. K. Puckle has reported that there was a surplus of Rs. 7,000 in 1871.



He has reported to the Board of Revenue as follows:—"There is no justification whatever for such rack renting especially when the institution is under the Government management." ('Witness filed the copy of the letter of recommendation to the Board of Revenue').

Q.—What became of the surplus? A.—It is spent in constructing buildings and in litigation.

Q.—What is your proposal? A.—Facilities should be provided for the ryots. Irrigation facilities should be provided. The existing rate of rent should be reduced.

*Fasljasti.*—Fasljasti should not be levied. There was no restriction by way of water-rate to the cultivation up to fasli 1334. As there was no restriction, waste lands came under cultivation. They said that they would levy the rates of assessment prevailing in the neighbourhood, that after fasli 1334, permission should be obtained for carrying on the above cultivation and that if permission was not obtained penal rates might be levied. No penal levy was levied before that. It is stated in the record of rights that a penal levy is collected now. ('Witness files the extract from the record of rights.')

*Rent collection.*—If the same rate is levied here as is being levied in respect of ayan land after paying the necessary attention to the matter, we have no objection to the collection of the assessment in four instalments in the concerned fasli. The assessment should be collected in small amounts. It is my opinion that it should be collected as is being done in the case of the ayan lands. As collection is made like this, the assessment falls into arrears and accumulates and so the tenants lose their land. Reduction of the rent and its collection in four instalments will be beneficial to the tenants. This should be done.

There are some minor inams belonging to this Tirukkurungudi chatram. Up to fasli 1337, they were granting pattas under the Estates Land Act. All the proceedings which were provided for under the Act were conducted. They do not grant the pattas according to the Estates Land Act but are granting them to the tenants as in the case of 'purakudi.' They say that, as the lands are called minor inams, there is no provision to grant us pattas according to the Estates Land Act. Pattas should be granted in respect of minor inams under the Estates Land Act and they should be brought under the scope of the definition of estate in the Act. (Witness files the Nambi thalaivan pattayam.) The assessment is one rupee per acre for a single crop land and 12½ rupees per acre for a double-crop land.

*Village-sites.*—There are trees on the village-sites. Tax is levied on them. Tax is also levied on the fruit bearing trees in the backyards of houses. They are still collecting it. A tenant filed a suit in this connection and it was decided in his favour. They do not collect the tax from him. The next tenant also filed a suit and was given a favourable decision. They expect that every tenant should go to Court for his suits and seek redress. They levy tax even for houses on the village-sites of the estate. This is unjust. Therefore house-tax and tree-tax should not be levied.

*Under tenants.*—There are no under-tenants in our estate. This item should be omitted from the memorandum. They have misrepresented it therein. As there are no under-tenants, I request that the corresponding item may be omitted.

Witness No. 221.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mahalingam Chettiyar, aged 45 years, son of Basava Chettiyar, Ayakudi zamin.

'He presented a memorandum and said: 'All that we have to say is stated in this.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Are you going to say anything more?

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—If you have to say anything special, you may say it? A.—The lands in the zamin are wet lands and dry lands. They have levied an assessment of 18½ panams in respect of these lands. They say that they will make a deduction after the lapse of one year. The High Court has also made a decision to that effect. But they do not do so. ('He filed a judgment.')

It has been decided that only the rate of assessment in respect of dry lands should be levied and that the rate of assessment in respect of wet lands should not be levied. But they collect the wet rate of assessment. They do not transfer the pattas properly. The patta is in the name of some one. They receive the money which comes to them easily. Great loss is caused to the tenants. I request that a jamabandi should be conducted through the Government. A survey has to be made for us. The zamindar should bear the cost.



Q.—Has a survey been made? Who should bear the cost? A.—No. As they take the profit, the cost should be borne by them alone. We do not object to the existing rent. It is only this assessment which is a hardship to us. Remission should be granted in respect of lands where the crops fail, as in the case of the ayan lands. There should be statutory provision for filing a suit in the Revenue Court if the rent is very much enhanced.

Q.—I suppose the law is indeed like that at present? A.—The summons are not properly served on us. Remedy should be provided for us through the Civil Court. The zamindar constructs buildings in the village porambokes for his own use. There is space for keeping the cattle in Palayakkudi. He is making arrangement to close even that. Our cattle are standing in the open.

Q.—Did you not object? A.—As he is the zamindar, how can the tenants ask him? If they ask him, he gets angry. How can they ask him? The zamindar does not allow us to take the silt from the tank. He demands one anna or two annas. We ask for it only for manuring the land. Arrangements should be made to enable us to take silt freely.

Mr. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Do they have a forest? A.—A river flows in the forest. The forest on both the sides measures about 1,000 kulis. Cattle cannot go and graze there. The rainfall is low. They have cut down the trees in the forest in plenty. These trees did not exist formerly. They are cutting them like this only during the last 2 or three years. We have been grazing our cattle without paying any fees. It should be arranged that we do not have any difficulty in this matter in future.

Q.—I suppose there is no obstruction now? A.—No. It should be seen that no obstruction is caused in future.

Q.—No such thing will happen? A.—We had cut wood for making a plough. This right should be allowed to continue.

Q.—You need not say anything fearing that something may happen? A.—They ask us to produce a licence for cutting wood for agricultural implements. They give it only to those in whom they are interested and do not give it to others. Such is the trouble. There are 21 sluices in the Vadavanadhi. The last sluice is the third mile. It irrigates lands for 13 days and 8 nights. They put dry leaves and mud and close it and open it at night. There is a pathway in the zamin solely for those in whom the zamin authorities are interested. They close to for others. They do not allow poor peasants like us to go that way. Hence there is not a satisfactory yield for us. They have four sluices, open during the day. Water flows through them day and night. It should be seen that the Kasavapalli system is not in force.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Whose land is it? A.—It is the farm land of the zamindar. Even if he sells it, he makes use of the system. The collection of rent will begin from December. It will be advantageous if it is collected from the month of March. We are unable to pay it in that period. Hence arrangements should be made to collect it from March. The tank has not been repaired for the last 5 years. It had a breach in 1932. We submitted a petition regarding it even to the Hon'ble Minister. Formerly, a suit was filed that the tank was not repaired and it has been decreed for Rs. 2,250. The repairs have not been done. There is a failure of crops every year on account of the defective anicut. Hence some arrangements should be made for us regarding the repairs. A suit was filed that repairs were not made after 1932 and it has been decreed for Rs. 2,250. The person who conducted it was the Dewan of the Zamindar. Hence he did not pay attention to it. They have again constructed a water gauge in the Pappankulam. When the water goes down in the tank, we can get more water if a shutter is applied to stop the water, when we ask the zamindar about it, he tells us to go and ask the Congressmen.

Q.—Do they incur loss on account of that? A.—The water source for the railway station which is down below will get spoilt. Hence they do not allow it to be swept well. If a water gauge is provided, loss will be caused to the railway. The tank is on a high level. Hence it is not provided. They do not give us anything. They tell us to go and ask the Congressmen. Reports have not been done for the last 20 years. I request you to examine the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing our constituency. He is also a ryot and he should be examined.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: You need not recommend him for being examined. He will speak for himself.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—For how many years has this rate of assessment been in force? A.—It has been so for a very long time.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How does a wet land sell in your village? A.—It sells at Rs. 500 per kuli, i.e., 59 cents.

Q.—Does the dam which has been constructed belong to both the Government and the zamindar? A.—It belongs to both of them.

Q.—If a repair is to be made, should not the Government and the zamindar pay the cost? A.—The water flows also to the Government lands and to the zamindar's lands. The repair should of course be made by those who collect the kist or rent. Should this be taught to us? (Laughter.)

Q.—Should not the Government pay for it? A.—We will ask only the zamindar. We are tenants.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Has the zamindar spent Rs. 1,000 and repaired the anicut in 1936? A.—There were floods twice and it was washed away.

Q.—Did not the zamindar repair it? A.—We do not know that.

Q.—In a petition submitted by you, you have stated like that? A.—We did submit a petition. They had put sand bags. These might have been washed away.

Q.—You have stated therein that even though the repair was done at a cost of Rs. 1,000, it was of no use? A.—It was only a temporary repair. It was not permanent.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Should not the Government also share this expense? A.—It is only the zamindar who should have the repair done for us. We pay the tax direct to the zamindar. We do not know that.

Q.—In your petition, have you requested the zamindar to recommend that this repair should be done by the Government? A.—It is in English. We do not know the particulars thereof. We are tenants.

Q.—Do you speak as though you are speaking for the others? A.—Only persons who do not know English have signed it. We tell you the particulars which we know.

Q.—I suppose you have requested only the Government to have repair done? A.—We will ask only the zamindar. We request only that the repair should be made. Cultivation is carried on the inside of the tank and kanmoi. We request that it should be stopped.

Witness No. 222.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Karuppanna Kavandar, son of Muthurama Kavandar, aged 38 years, Elumalai zamin.

The assessment in respect of garden and wet lands in our zamin is exorbitant.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Please state how much it is? It varies from Rs. 6-4-0 to 15 for 1 acre and 62 cents of garden land. In certain places they allow a deduction called maplu. It all depends on the person.

Q.—Why is it deducted? A.—Even if we ask the zamin about it, no reply is given. The rate of assessment which was levied on acres 1.62 of wet land 40 years ago was Rs. 1-8-0, 5, 7 and 8. Within the period of 40 years it was Rs. 9-5-0, 10, 15 and 13-8-0. The rate was Rs. 8, 5, 7 or 1-8-0, whether we cultivated a kottai crop or not.

Q.—Was the enhancement of the rate made before 1908 or after that? A.—It should be only after 1908. I do not know it definitely. The dry rate of assessment should be levied in respect of garden land. When we dig a well ourselves and irrigate the land from it, the dry rate should be levied. The land at the foot of the hill is known as dry kandettam. A dispute arose between the zamindar and the tenants in 1861 and it was compounded. The lands concerned belong to the respective tenants whether cultivation is carried on or not. The assessment varies from Re. 1-4-0 to Rs. 4 in respect of cultivable lands.

Q.—What is its extent? A.—It is 1½ miles.

Q.—What is the difference? A.—A classification of the land was made at the time of the paimash as dry and dry kandettam. It should be arranged that this classification is applicable to us. If a pattadar had sold his land and some assessment is due from the purchaser in addition to what the pattadar has paid, they collect it in full from the pattadar. This happens because pattas have not been transferred. The assessment should be collected in two instalments. If there are arrears, the moveable property should be distrained and the arrears collected. If there is no moveable property, just the extent of land which will be equivalent to the arrears in value should be distrained. They collect in addition fees known as fees for lease deed and kanna fees.



Q.—At what rate do they collect it from you? A.—Nine pies for a patta. It is 8 annas for a kottai of kanmoi wet land. It is noted in the deed.

Q.—Does the sum of 9 pies go to the zamindar or is it taken by those who collect it? A.—It goes only to the zamindar. It should not be collected. Apart from the assessment, they collect "paddy for accounts" for which there is no account. The tenants give 12 measures of paddy of their own accord. They give it as contribution for the purpose of worship. This has been happening for the last 20 years. But they do not perform any workshop. A limit should be fixed for this collection also.

We take all the trees from the forest for our use except the teak, kino, gallnut, resin and rosewood trees. A pattadar pays 6 annas and one who is not a pattadar pays 4 annas, and we enjoy them. We purchase them for the purposes of making agricultural implements and of building houses and for fuel and pay fees for grazing our cattle.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you take them for the use of your household or for selling? A.—The pattadars will not go to collect fuel. We have to obtain a permit for another village except in the case of the own village. This matter should be attended to. We request that we should be permitted to cut even the five classes of trees mentioned above. Only the zamin tenants do not enjoy them. They are simply watching when the people of the neighbouring village cut and take them. If the tenants of our zamin go to cut them, they prevent them from doing so.

Q.—Why should you not stop the practice of cutting the trees? Why should you not prevent them? A.—They have appointed a forest reserve in the zamin. A case of theft was instituted in June 1934. The zamindar and the tenants spent Rs. 20,000. The decision was favourable to the tenants. They tell us in the zamindari to go to the civil court and establish our right there. Even if we send money orders, they return them. They have been saying for the last 10 years that they will not make any collection.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—I suppose that you are using them as before, even though they do not make any collection? A.—They do not receive 4 annas or 6 annas only to say that we have no right. But it has been decided that we are not thieves on that account and we have succeeded in the case.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you not brought any paper now? A.—No. They have granted pattas in respect of poramboke and kanmoi lands which exist for the public convenience and are collecting rent therefor. The zamin authorities should have those places vacated. The kanmoi has not been repaired for the last 40 years, though they collect 8 annas per kottai. Trees have grown thereon and it is not able to hold water. It is full of wild growth and sand. Hence we are unable to carry on cultivation on dry land. Repairs should be done as stated in our petition under the supervision of Government.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Why should you not submit a petition to the Collector? A.—They ask every pattadar to affix stamps and file a suit. How can 3,000 pattadars do it.

Q.—Do you not know that under the Estate Land Act, you may deposit Rs. 250 and ask through the Collector that the repairs should be done? A.—We do not have the money.

Q.—Should only the Government take the repairs to the kanmoi? A.—Yes. There is no transfer of pattas in our zamin. If we submit a petition through the Sub-Registrar, we have to pay him and his establishment a mamul fee. It is one rupee for transferring a patta. Hence that system should be changed.

Q.—Do they assign the lands which are on the inside of tanks? A.—Yes. They levy an assessment thereon. The canal gets a breach and a pit is created. If we plough it and cultivate paddy thereon, it is difficult to get four pothis from it. Along with the taram tirvai, they levied double the rate of assessment in respect of it.

Q.—Have you brought any receipt as evidence for their having levied like that? A.—Important persons in my village said that it was not necessary and so I did not bring it.

Q.—How many days is it since you came here? A.—Two days. I did not know that I had to bring the receipt.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is the price of land in your place? A.—Wet land has been selling at Rs. 500 per kottai (i.e., acres 1.62 for the lands 10 or 15 years.

Q.—Have they classified that one half of the forests in the zamin are reserved and the other half not reserved? A.—The total extent is 13,000 acres. It appears that 10,000 acres of this are set apart as reserve. It may be said that the entire area is reserved.



Q.—Can you take the fuel, etc., which you require, from the forests which have not been reserved? A.—We are taking all that we require from the reserved forests. There is no forest which is not reserved.

Q.—Do you cut big trees in the reserved forest? A.—There are only trees which are fit for fuel. There are no big trees.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—If there are big trees, will you cut them? A.—Except the five classes of trees, viz., teak, kino, rosewood, gallnut and resin, we will cut all the remaining trees.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you hold the office of a Revenue Inspector in the zamin? A.—I held that office for 10 years.

Q.—Did they remove you from office on a charge of misappropriation of money? A.—There was no such thing. I have resigned the post myself in August 1936. If required, I shall produce a letter to that effect. I have not come forward to give evidence because of a dismissal.

Q.—Have you executed a pro-note to the zamindar for the amount which you had misappropriated? A.—No. I executed a pro-note for Rs. 350 in 1931.

Q.—Why did you execute it? A.—I did it for paying off about Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 being my arrears of rent.

Q.—If you have any evidence to show that you worked continuously till 1937, please produce it. A.—I have. I shall go and get it.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the reason for your quitting that service? A.—The zamindar constructed a wall around the place where cattle are confined. I was then the manager. The tenants demolished that wall. The next day one person represented to me that he wanted to make a flower garden and that certain persons had demolished the wall.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Where was the case filed? A.—The suit regarding the demolition of the wall was filed in the Magistrate's court on a statement made by the lessee Muthiah Thevan was with me in Sethu. They said in an abusive manner that, if the wives of people were chaste, those people might break the wall while they were present. Finally people went to break it. The zamindar asked me through important persons to file a false suit. I was not willing to file a false suit. Hence I left the job and came away.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is this all that you have to say? A.—Yes.

Witness No. 223.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. M. N. Perumal Nayakar, aged 55, son of Nallama Nayakar, Srirangapuram, Gandamanayakanur Zamin.**

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Have you presented any memorandum before the committee?

A.—No. We sink wells in the fields and cultivate our garden lands. For the cultivation of kambu, cholam, cotton, etc., the punja rate is 3 fanams for a pit of extent, 60 cents. They charge every year 8 to 7 fanams as thirva. For a single well, and a single number bearing two pattas owned under two brothers they have fixed three fanams for each patta and for a pit 8 to 7 fanams. For the payment of 3 fanams, tobacco can be cultivated. For others 8 to 7 fanams thirva is collected for tobacco cultivation.

Q.—What is the reason for doing so?

A.—Some farmers put appeals in courts and in the Privy Council it was settled that high rate of thirva must be abolished. Besides this, if other tenants should petition for the redress of some grievances, it is not paid heed to. (He filed some records as exhibit.)

According to Account No. 6, they have levied a thirva called "Goyya thirva." Thirva for garden lands are charged more than 8 fanams. If plantain crop is cultivated separate thirva is levied. For goa trees 4 fanams extra thirva is collected. Even for sugarcane high rate of thirva is levied. Levy of thirva is done according to their wishes. If a land adjoining a well is irrigated with the water from the well, the thirva charged is from 8 fanams to 12 fanams. If a man mortgages one land for the sake of sinking a well in it and borrows Rs. 500, and when he leaves the land on account of his inability to pay back the amount, he is told the money borrowed is only for the well and not for the land.



Q.—Are all these documents got back after payment of money?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Will it be in safe custody?

A.—Yes. We can have it.

Q.—How deep will be the water in the well?

A.—All the wells are above 18, 20 yards depth. From that water can be had only for 30 cents of land alone. Even if wells should be sunk at a cost of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, water could be had only if there was water in the tank near it. Tanks are not at all repaired. Therefore, there is no adequate water-supply. During this year water could not be got out from several wells. There are different rates of thirva levied. The collection of thirva ought to be done at the rate of  $16\frac{1}{2}$  fanams or Rs. 3-7-0. But actually they are collecting Rs. 3-8-0 from us.

Q.—After all the increase is only one anna?

A.—An ordinary farmer with that one anna can work wonders or it will be very useful for an ordinary farmer to live in.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is it one anna per day?

A.—It is enough if one anna is given if a boy works. If notice is given at once for any man cultivating the natham poramboke, it will be helpful for the ryot. They are collecting four times the thirva alone. It must be vacated.

Q.—Why not you give it again to them?

A.—It will be an hindrance for the man who ploughs. If the village is like natham poramboke, many hindrances and troubles will arise.

Q.—Should it be vacated without the payment or collection of thirva?

A.—Yes. We must have free gifts of agricultural implements such as kalappai, plough, axle, kuthukal, cylinder, etc., and to make these things we must have the materials in the tanks or tank-bed lands.

Q.—The mountain is not in possession of the zamindar?

A.—If anything is left in the middle are we to be held responsible for it? Can that portion of land be taken for cash payment and thus put us to so many troubles? We had with us all facilities in olden times.

Q.—Can you not remove anything from that mountain? Have you to get anything from that mountain only after paying cash?

A.—How can we say it? We are bound to obey the laws of a Government if any such thing is done. We want the necessary orders to be issued for the free removal of stones for building houses and cattle-sheds. We must have manure leaves, dung, etc., for manuring the lands without the payment of any thirva. They require a pass for the removal of cow-dung, etc.

Q.—Are you asking all these things thinking that the zamindar is in possession of a mountain?

A.—We were all tenants even prior to this.

Q.—How can you ask for things which are not in the hands of the zamindar?

A.—You must gather all these things and give them up to us. Because we are zamin tenants, we are put to a lot of expenditure even under the present Government. If any dispute should arise between the ayan tenants with regard to a particular piece of land, they set up a mound over the thirva if it is a property worth Rs. 10,000, and decide the dispute in the courts. If it is worth more than Rs. 10,000, unless 10,000 mounds are built, Government do not accept it.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is it court-fees?

A.—Because we are zamin tenants we have to pay a greater amount of mound.

Q.—Is it not so for the Government tenants?

A.—Just as there are land mortgage banks established for the sake of ayan tenants under section 75 of the Court Fees Act, we (the zamin tenants) should also have a share in such banks. The farmer does not know that the zamindar has to be intimated, if he builds a house in a patta land. Farmers build houses spending about Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. Therefore, 20 years' thirva is asked.

Q.—Now you have the power or right to build houses?

A.—How to pay 20 years' thirva?

Q.—It is like that in the Government?

A.—Even if it is so, a house worth Rs. 4,000 is distrained for 4 annas stating that it is the fourth number. Therefore, we plead that this sort of distraint trouble must be removed. The zamin tenants must have right to petition for the sale of gardens in the ayan areas, immaterial of the zamin tenant owning or disowning a patta in the ayan lands. Thirva must be reduced and remission should be given for the places where these rubbishes are thrown. As the thirva gets increased if agriculture gets improved, so also



facilities must be given for the increasing population to build houses to live in, on patta lands by converting them into porambokes. Water-supply is from the "Vaigai River" which is two miles from our zamin. We are only seeing that river by our eyes without using its water.

Q.—Why? Don't you drink the water?

A.—During the Court of Wards time, the water is got by building anicuts. But now, under this zamindar no such thing is taking place. As the Court of Wards have come again we request that the village must have adequate water-supply and the necessary steps also must be taken at once.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Who is to build the dam?

A.—Government must influence or order the zamindar to do so. We are expressing our grievances here thinking that this Committee itself is the Government. If a patta-dar dies, the patta is changed either in that fasli or in the next fasli. But in this zamin, it is not the case. The patta remains under the name of the ancestors alone even if the present holder is the great-grandson of the family.

Q.—Are not the names of the grandson and the grandfather the same?

A.—The names can be different also.

Q.—Why, it was not petitioned?

A.—Can kanakapillai, who is prepared for levying taxes for anything, not know the particular name? There is a rumour that in ayan lands there will be a grant of remission of 5 to 4 annas in a rupee. But there is no such thing in the zamin.

Q.—Do you know that there is a new set of laws with regard to debts and their collection?

A.—There will be benefit for those who are not taxed but there is no benefit for those who are taxed. If any petition is to be given, we must first buy paper from them for one anna.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is it stamp paper?

A.—No. They have printed some papers. We do not have even paper for half an anna. It will be half inch less than the ordinary paper. We must write in that paper only.

Q.—What for are they having those papers?

A.—If we come to know why they are collecting Rs. 3-8-0 instead of Rs. 3-7-0, then only we can ask them what for are you having these papers and the rules. We do not know why they are pressing us to write in those papers. There must be change of rules for the sale of lands. It is different to sell lands by summary suits. Notice will be served by the estate servants even without the knowledge of the farmer. The estate servants are not paid officers. They collect from the farmers something like the smallest coin, and paste the notice anywhere they like. For an arrear of one rupee, a land worth Rs. 1,000 is distrained, brought to sale and bid by the zamindar himself in the sale. Unless the ancestral arrears are paid, patta is not changed. This trouble must be redressed. Thirva must be according to the pisa rate alone.

Q.—According to the rules they cannot alter the rate of thirva without the written permission of the Revenue Divisional Officer?

A.—How can we, common farmers, know about this matter? Why should we labour ourselves like this if we come to know such things. Those, who know of such things, join the opposite party if they are given some rupees like Rs. 15. There are many cases like this. Even I will be tempted to do so if I am in that position. (Laughter.) There must be some help shown to those who do not know about such rules. Nothing should be done in favour of those who know all these things. According to Privy Council's decision they have levied a thirva of 3 fanams rate. Therefore, they have a distinction between the wells that were existing before 1855 and wells that are newly constructed after 1855. All these distinctions must be abolished and thirva must be reduced, bringing all of them to be guided by one set of laws alone.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN: Q.—Where is the Privy Council's decision?

A.—I do not have it at present. The zamindar himself accepts it.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you cultivate your own lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How much lands?

A.—We have 100 pits and 60 acres of land.

Q.—For ploughing purposes, have you established your own workmen?

A.—We, brothers (elder and younger) and brothers-in-law and others join together and carry out the agricultural work. We will have our own workmen also at times. We employ the workmen on daily wages.



Q.—Is there anybody in your place who has handed over his lands to another man for the sake of cultivation, etc.?

A.—If we should do so like that, we derive no benefit from it.

Q.—If one cultivates the land in this year, will he do so next year also?

A.—Yes, it may be so. In a place where there are 4 kotas, 2 kotas can be given away for hired labour.

Q.—Do they have ownership or right to the soil?

A.—They take only their wages.

Q.—If tobacco is cultivated, do they levy a higher rate of thirva?

A.—We say, we do not require high rate of thirva.

Q.—Paddy is good for the people. Is not tobacco a bad crop for the people? You cultivate tobacco only for the sake of trade alone.

A.—Yes. To manure our lands and to meet other agricultural as well as domestic expenses, we cultivate tobacco. Therefore, this high rate of thirva must be abolished.

Witness No. 224.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. C. Sankaralingam Pillai, aged 38 years, son of Chinnaswami Pillai, Tevaram zamin, Periyakulam taluk.

The assessment levied on lands in the zamin is not fixed as in the case of the ayan lands. It is levied with reference to the crop. It is levied even in cases where a well has been dug. Hence a settlement should be made, prescribing a rate for dry lands and another for wet lands.

If water is to be used for irrigating wet lands in the zamin, they levy a water-rate and levy an assessment for the land separately. They levy a tax known as nirvadai and collect 8 pannams separately for water. Though a spring is formed in the land, they levy one kalam per kuli. Now they collect Rs. 4 or Rs. 4-8-0. They do not allow water to those who do not pay it. They do not carry out repairs properly. Hence a rate for wet lands and a rate for dry lands should be fixed. They have levied assessment for the garden which is irrigated from a private well. They levy an assessment of 50 panams for a betel crop. Fifty people eke out a livelihood from one kuli. Much hardship is caused to the tenants on account of the levy of an assessment of 50 or 60 panams. A uniform assessment should be levied for that also. It should be levied as in the case of ayan lands. About 70 or 80 years ago, we had facilities, as in the case of the ayan villages, to collect green manure, to graze our cattle and to take wood for making agricultural implements from the forest. Afterwards, the zamindar began to take interest in some persons and they are now collecting ragi-tax and a tax of one rupee for every ten rupees' worth taken from the forest and thus cause trouble to the tenants. Facilities should therefore be provided to enable the agriculturists to collect white wood and make agricultural implements. A suit has been filed in this connexion and it is proceeding. They have made a new arrangement that tax should be paid for taking stones and mud newly. It has not yet come into force. We heard that they demanded a higher rate of tax from one or two persons. Hence we have filed a suit. These matters should be set right.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Was a criminal case conducted recently?  
A.—A case of murder and shooting was conducted. A case of shooting on account of the zamindar's refusal to supply water has been filed on his behalf against the tenants. Even now, one person has died on the zamindar's side.

Q.—In which zamin? A.—Thevaram. They levy water-cess in respect of a wet land which is not in the ayacut. This is the cause of all trouble. This trouble was caused by their meddling with the springs, collecting a kalam for each kuli and diverting the water.

Q.—Has a survey been conducted? A.—It was made in 1898. It is necessary to make a survey now.



Witness No. 225.

Madura.

23rd February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Arunachalam Chettiyar, aged 40 years, son of Ayyaswami Chettiyar, Tevaram.

(He filed certain documents and judgments concerning forest and some receipts for the collection of ragi tax. He continued.)

There was a dacoity and murder in 1892. Persons connected with the zamin were sentenced for six months. These are documents relating to that.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Was this case instituted because they come to ask for the ragi tax? A.—Yes. Because they came to demand that tax, a case was instituted that they molested the women.

Q.—What is the ragi tax? A.—It is 12 annas. For those who pay an assessment less than 10 rupees, it is one rupee. If the assessment is more, the tax is 2 annas more for each rupee.

Q.—Do they demand this additional amount for grazing cattle? A.—Yes. They will permit persons in whom they are interested and will not permit others.

Q.—Is there any exception to that practice now? A.—We paid the ragi tax and enjoyed it. Some persons paid it and some others did not. They have filed a suit that up to nine persons have to pay a tax of 13 lakhs of rupees in this regime. As it was new, we said that we could not pay it. The suit is proceeding in this connexion.

Water-rate.—Though sanction has been given for repairing the tank, they have not carried out the repairs. Report has been made about this. (He then filed the water-rate demand notices by the new zamindar as well as the cropwar statement and some judgment. He continued.)

They take the estate lands in auction for one anna and grant patta if we pay 10 rupee per kuli for a year. The land taken in auction for one anna will be worth Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000. They have noted in the adangal that it is auctioned for 1 anna for the estate. They will grant pattas to other persons if Rs. 10 is paid.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—How did you get the adangal? A.—I obtained it from the previous zamindar.

Q.—To which year does the adangal relate? A.—It is the adangal of 1926.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Who is the proprietor? A.—Al. Vr. S. T. Chidambaram Chettiyar.

Q.—Wherefrom have you brought all these records? A.—They were with us.

Q.—How did you get them? A.—After the demise of the previous zamindar, they were with the vakils. As we had transactions with them, we obtained them from them.

Q.—Did you experience these hardships when the previous zamindar lived? A.—They have been existing continuously. Murder and plunder have been existing even from that time onwards. After Chettiyar took charge, it is more difficult for us. Some persons have executed an agreement to pay the ragi tax. Some others have not done so. The zamin authorities went to their houses and demanded the tax. When they refused to pay it, the manager of the zamindar went there, ordered the men to be dragged out, plundered the house and caused it to be vacated. Murder also happened on account of this. All the persons involved were the zamindar's men. The manager was sentenced for three months and the others for six months.

Witness No. 227.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. S. Alagu Servai, Kuchchanur, Bodinayakkanur zamin.

I am sent here to give evidence before the Committee, on behalf of the Periyakulam Taluk Congress Committee and the ryots' association. So far as this taluk is concerned, there is a lot of difference between the peshkash paid to the Government by the zamindars and the amount collected from the tenants by the zamindars. From the collected amount not even a single pie is spent for the improvement of the common welfare of the villages. The whole amount is spent by the zamindars themselves for their personal improvements alone. We want that from the collection amount, after deducting the peshkash from it, a portion must be set apart or excluded for the use of improving the



villages. The amount, so set apart, must be put in the hand of panchayat. The members of the panchayat, either four or five, should be determined or nominated by the Government. These panchayat members must take personal supervision of the lands, improve them and spend the sum allotted to improve the lands and other sources concerned with agriculture. The amount of money required for the improvement of agriculture, etc., must be determined separately for each village. For the sake of improvement of the village certain lands were excluded in fasli 1212, but it was given away to tenants under pattas after some time. The common work of the village is affected by the distribution of such excluded lands called "Common Lands." No benefit is derived by the tenants from such lands. The zamindars themselves must hand over such lands to the village panchayat, if they should have any. In Bodi zamin, there are two villages named Saltcot and Muchchanur. The villages have their water-supply from the Periyar river. Previously there was the water-supply from Suruli river for cultivation purposes. It is this water alone that must feed the two villages. For the sake of this, the circar have levied and collected illegal thirva. For the lands under this water-supply, the zamindar is already collecting a separate thirva. The collection of such illegal thirva by the circar is a direct violation of the agreement entered between the zamindar, tenants and the circar. People were utilizing the water of the Surliar river in olden days. If the same water brought by the circar is utilized now for cultivation purposes by the people, they levy an illegal thirva. Since the Revenue Board tenants took necessary action on behalf of the Oorlam tenants, there were some favourable orders passed. People denied some benefits also.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—How much is nanja and what is the extent of punja lands?

A.—In fasli 1212, during the time of the Company, the lands were divided into nanja and punja in a way in each village and thirva was completely abolished. The accounts of nanja and punja lands are varying. (Files records to show this. A general account). So far as Kuchchanur village is concerned, from 1791, there is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vissam pit, of nanja lands. These lands are not properly cultivated now. In the Village Agaval account there is a tank which can supply water for 10 days. It gets its water from Surliar. In the Agaval account the details of taxation are clearly written. In my estate there is no cropwar rate. We have got records to prove it. He filed fourteen accounts in support of it. The circar levied water-rate for all fisal lands. We objected to the levy of such thirva and took the necessary action in which we won. I will file the order. Out of such lands, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$  pits of land are under the water-supply of a well sunk by the zamindar himself at his own cost. In such lands, 8 fanams thirva is levied for tobacco cultivation and 6 fanams for garden crop cultivation. These rates are shown in the Agaval account. According to fisal records and others, there is no evidence to show that the thirva collected from garden lands is the same as the one levied for punja lands.

They are giving a patta known as miscellaneous patta. According to Permanent Settlement accounts, if the rate of thirva for punja lands is 2 fanams, these miscellaneous patta lands are having 3 fanams rate. In our zamin there is that practice of getting nazar cash. They are giving these miscellaneous pattas because the nazar cash can be obtained at any time.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Does that term "Miscellaneous patta" mean the cultivation of poramboke lands?

A.—Patta, levied on lands, which are allotted for the common benefit of the village, is called miscellaneous patta. According to custom, only permanent pattas should be given. The assignment of miscellaneous pattas should be abolished. These miscellaneous pattas are troublesome to the ryots alone.

Q.—Is it not illegal acquisition?

A.—How can we say it is so, when the lands are under the occupation of the tenants from ancient days? It cannot be said so, because no stranger enters the lands from foreign place. At times the zamindars take the lands for 8 annas for the balance of kist. If the owner of the lands comes to pay thirva after the zamindar becomes the owner of it for the arrears of kist, nazar is demanded from the owner of the land. Patta is not granted unless nazar is paid. If a third person pays nazar, patta is at once granted in his name. There is a rule in the Estates Land Act, to the effect that, if the owner of the lands pays money, he must be granted at once a patta. But it is not under practice. After enquiries in the several villages, it is made a rule that punja thirva alone must be levied and garden thirva should be abolished altogether. There is a decision like that in Rasingapuram. Every year the tenant cannot put summary suit for the sake of patta and get it after meeting the necessary expenditures because he is financially poor. Therefore, I request that such troubles must be redressed and



proper laws should be enacted in favour of the tenants. If petitions are put claiming lands, rejected as unfit for cultivation, for any other use, the lands are given to either a rich man or to a man who pays money. For such petition, use of ordinary white paper is prohibited. There is a fixed form which can be had for a rupee each. If petitions are put in that form alone, they are paid heed to. Even for that so money must be given. Petition for the transfer of patta also must be written in a special form prescribed by them. So also, if we want a place in the mountain, we have to put our petition in the special forms sold for some money.

Q.—Have you got records to prove such things?

A.—The Diwan himself has come here. If you ask him about that he will accept it. Petitions written in white papers are not paid any attention but if the form prescribed is obtained for a rupee and if the petition is written there, it is given the immediate attention and effect. Because there is nazar demanded for lands which can be cultivated, the people are put to great hardship.

Trees on patta lands are levied tree-tax. During the time of the Permanent Settlement, they have allowed margin for all these trees and have granted a whole patta. As per agreement, if any body grows trees in his patta lands, separate patta for the trees is demanded. It is objected by the tenants and this creates a lot of trouble and loss to the tenants.

In Bodi zamin, peshkash and other cesses come together up to Rs. 25,000. Its income is about a lakh and odd. Deducting this Rs. 25,000 from the income of lakh of rupees, the remaining Rs. 75,000 is not at all utilized for the welfare and improvement of the state of the people. There is an anicut near Kuchchanur. It is not repaired in proper times. Once there was danger to the whole village by a flood. At that time we gave a wire to the Bodi zamindar, asking him to save the village and its residents from the disaster. We got a reply to the effect that the tenants themselves must repair the anicut.

Q.—Have you brought that reply telegram?

A.—I have not brought it here.

In the village there is no proper or reserved mandaiveli, where cattle and sheep can be kept, or where people can go to their stool-side, and there is no kalam or threshing floor for the crops after harvest. In ancient times, there was a reserved separate mandaiveli land for males and another one for females. Those lands are now extinct. About 10 cawnies of lands were inams in olden days. Now they were converted into patta lands after levying nazar on them. There is no common footsteps now. Those footstep lands also were converted into patta lands.

Fifty fanams of thirva is collected if a man sinks a well in a punja land and cultivates creeping crops like pumpkin on it. People in the zamin are not able to derive any comfort under such circumstances in the villages. Therefore, a committee should decide and reserve a portion of the money collected in each village, for the improvement of the village needs, according to the capacity of the villages. Such reserved and fixed money should be kept in the hands of a panchayat board which should utilize the same money to improve the condition of the village, whenever necessity arises. It is the only way to make the people live comfortably.

Q.—You say that a certain portion of money should be reserved for the improvement or prosperity of the village. What do you mean by improvement of the village?

A.—A certain amount should be reserved for constructing roads for vehicles, for opening up of communications, for introducing hygienic principles into the village, for sinking wells, for the repair of the respecting tanks and also for taking care of the forest.

Q.—You told that common lands are converted into patta lands. When is it?

A.—It is prevailing from about 10 to 15 years.

Q.—Is it for the same village tenants or for the tenants of another village?

A.—In ancient times, there were ponds and pits. Those lands were assigned on patta for foreigners also. How can such lands be known. It can be detected only when the lands are improved. This leads to disputes between the tenants.

Q.—What are these common lands?

A.—All these lands are punja lands alone.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You told that they are selling "forms" for a rupee. Is it stamp-fees?

A.—Those forms are printed ones. When you buy a form like that the Shroff signs the form with the date and the amount of money you pay for it. The amount so



collected finds a place in the estate accounts. Such forms should be used even for the transfer of pattas. For tharakas petitions also such forms should be used. For other things use of white paper is permitted.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—When was the repairs to anicuts and sluices done?

A.—About six years there was a big breach in an important anicut. It was repaired by the tenants themselves by collecting money as subscription, and also with Rs. 200 given by the zamin. They are not doing the proper repairs, etc., even if a vast amount of money is spent. The tenants themselves have repaired it several times at their own cost. A dispute arose between the tenants and the zamindar on account of this and payment of kist was stopped. At once an agreement was made by the zamindar with the tenants and the kist was collected from the tenants.

Q.—In your place, you have managing agents for the zamin. Will they not do all these things, if you just tell them?

A.—We have told several times. Nothing has been done. They do not pay heed to this. But, if anybody comes and offers money, then they pay attention to the grievances.

Q.—In your place, who collects these taxes?

A.—The village munsif collects the taxes and pays them to the zamindar. At times, the taxes are collected by persons temporarily appointed by the zamindar for such a work.

Q.—You told then tank-bed lands are assigned on patta. Is it for the village tenants themselves or for foreigners?

A.—They are giving tharakas for both inside tenants and outside tenants.

Q.—How is patta put on forests?

A.—Both natives and foreigners have got tharakas with them. The details are to be found in the records which I have filed.

Q.—What was the river that was supplying you water before the advent of the Periyar river?

A.—Water was supplied by the Surliar river.

Q.—What is the rate of thirva?

A.—From Rs. 6 to Rs. 18.

Q.—How much do you pay for water-cess?

A.—They have levied and collected Rs. 300 for an acre of land. This was done by the Government. Both Surliar river and Periyar river join together and flow through the zamin lands. When such is the case, they have levied an illegal water-cess.

Q.—Can crops be grown without getting water from this source?

A.—Crops can be grown only when there is water-supply from the Surliar river. There is no other source of water-supply.

Q.—Is that water flowing customarily from ancient times?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Can the lands, which have this illegal thirva, get water supplied from any other method?

A.—Yes. We have to irrigate those lands by taking water from the wells.

Q.—Is there any other thirva for that land?

A.—There is no other kind of thirva.

Q.—When was that illegal thirva or cess collected?

A.—In fasli 1333, we have paid Rs. 320.

Q.—Is that water supplied for the village alone or throughout?

A.—The water flows throughout. There was an objection for utilizing the water by us. It was set alright afterwards. Because we have utilized that water for one branch, they have levied that illegal cess.

Q.—Did they give you permission to have water-supply for the nanja lands before the advent of the Periyar supply?

A.—Yes. In fasli 1212 (125 years before) they have settled 1,700 pits permanently. Even if survey is done for the whole area you cannot get at that 1,700 pits.

Q.—When water was about to be had from Periyar river, were those lands (which had the illegal thirva levied on them), nanja lands or punja lands?

A.—All of them were nanja lands alone. We paid only nanja thirva to the zamindar. In the Agaval account, the zamindar has given patta for a land to a farmer according to some records.



Q.—For how many lands do you get water-supply from that river?

A.—About 1,000 pits of lands. Only 30 pits of lands have this illegal cess levied on them.

Q.—For what, they have levied that cess?

A.—They levied that thirva on them, telling that they are not permanently settled lands. Both the zamindar and the circar collect land thirva from us. In our zamin there has arisen a river called Palanjari. It flows through the zamin lands as well as the ayan lands. The zamindar is not collecting any thirva from the ayan tenants. But the ayan people are taking thirva. Therefore there is an agreement that the lands under the water-supply of Surliar in the zamin must not be taxed. They have taken steps to abolish such thirva.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you mean to say that the zamindar must give away the remaining amount to you all?

A.—The zamindar is getting an income of more than Rs. 1 lakh. Deducting peshkash of Rs. 25,000 from the income, the remaining Rs. 75,000 appears to be with him. Out of that amount we ask for a portion to be reserved to spend for the improvement of the village.

Q.—What is your estimate of one portion?

A.—We think that one-half of the remaining amount can be reserved.

Q.—In your zamin the peshkash is small. What about the other zamins in which the peshkash is half of the income?

A.—We are saying this, as far as our zamin is concerned.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are they collecting any tax for the transfer of patta after the present zamindar came in?

A.—After the new Act (Registration Act), only registration fees are collected in the Registration Office. Before this new Act, for transferring a patta we were compelled to pay money and put in a petition in the prescribed form.

Q.—Can you not petition to the Collector with regard to the transfer of patta?

A.—Yes, we can do it. But the only considerations are the money to be spent and the time that will be taken.

Q.—Is the tax, shown in your memorandum presented to the Committee, a proper one? Is there no objection about it?

A.—In that, we request that garden lands must have punja rate levied instead of cropwar rate.

Q.—Is it the 2 fanams levied for punja lands?

A.—That thirva is not a great amount.

Q.—Is this your objection, that, since crops are grown in garden lands with very great difficulty by the tenants, they must not be taxed highly?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How does this stand when compared with the neighbouring Government lands?

A.—They are not levying high-rate of thirva for garden lands in the ayan villages. There is no objection for punja lands having 2 fanams as thirva. There must be punja rate alone for the lands cultivated by the tenants with either tanks or wells, constructed at their own cost. Nanja thirva must not be levied. Only, if the zamindar attends to the repair of the tanks whenever they require it, and if he does other benefits to the ryots, high-rate of thirva can be levied or demanded. When that is not the case, we plead that high-rate of thirva must not be collected.

Q.—You spoke about panchayats. What is that?

A.—Only persons with vast experience and close contact with the people of the village would be selected as members of the panchayat. They will collect thirva from the people and hand it over to the zamindar.

Q.—Do you mean to say that if collection work is done by the panchayat, it will be better?

A.—Yes.

Witness continues: During distraint proceedings, and sale of lands, an extra amount of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 has to be spent. If the panchayat looks to the collection work and if the distraint proceedings are done by them, we will not be required to spend that extra amount. If this help is done to the villagers, it will be an immense benefit done to the people and the people will live comfortably and socially and I plead for such help to be done immediately.



Q.—Are you not going to courts frequently?

A.—If the zamindar does whatever we ask him, we do not complain against him. What we pray is that the zamindar must be lenient towards us. By himself the zamindar is a good person. We do not have the time to go and represent our grievances before him. It is not easy to talk with him. We are not allowed to represent our grievances personally before him by his sibbandies. They find out the means to prevent us from approaching the zamindar. If one is bent upon seeing the zamindar directly and goes to see him in spite of the prevention of the sibbandies, he is put to great hardships. Considering all these difficulties alone, we do not approach the zamindar personally. Hereafterwards at least, if the zamindar takes the necessary precaution to prevent his tenants from facing hardships, he will be setting an example to the other zamindars.

Q.—Is your estate surveyed?

A.—In 1875 our estate was surveyed. It has not yet come into practice.

Q.—Do you want your estate to be surveyed?

A.—It is essential that all the lands must be measured and kept in account. Survey will be beneficial to both the zamindar and the tenants.

Q.—Don't you require settlement?

A.—If settlement is done according to the present rate of thirva alone, it is acceptable.

Q.—Did you not make any request for the common lands by means of petitions?

A.—We did not petition for such lands because we obtained no benefit when we made a representation of such lands to the zamindar after a general body meeting, held a few years ago.

Q.—Is not 50 fanams assessment high?

A.—For cultivation of creeping plants, levy of 50 fanams assessment is very high. We are already paying for such lands nanja thirva or assessment. We are cultivating these creepers only on those nanja lands at our own cost and at our loss of energy and labour. Under such circumstances, levy of high-rate of assessment is illegal. Moreover, we were given in ancient days, green manure leaves and other manures like cow-dung, waste materials, etc., for manuring our lands, free of any cost. There was a case levied against us (tenants) with regard to this matter. First the case was decided against the tenants and then after an appeal it was decided in favour of the tenants. (Files copies of judgment, etc.) We want other materials also for our use besides those needed for agricultural purposes. For the collection of those materials we have to obtain licence. We have to get this licence from the zamin alone. So after spending about 1 to 1½ rupees for bus fare and meal and 1 rupee for the licence, we are put to troubles by the peons and guards. Therefore, we earnestly plead that facilities for obtaining materials required for domestic as well as agricultural purposes must be created.

Witness No. 228.

Madras.

24th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Suruliandy of Bodinayakkanur.**

They say that we should obtain a licence for the collection of green manure and other minor produce and lease them out. They lease them out as minor produce. Even if fibre, skins, hides and mustard are brought from the top hill, i.e., the Travancore hill, they levy a tax. They insist that we should obtain a licence even in the case of things brought from our zamin hill. If we bring a newly made winnowing fan, etc., from our cardamum estate, they levy a tax even for that. (Files counterfoils of receipt books.)

Mr P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—You said that they levy tax for taking cows and bulls. I suppose it is only for animals intended for the slaughter house. A.—People say that that levy it only on the animals which are intended to be taken to the slaughter house. But the tenants have to pay the tax even for the bullocks which they are taking to the neighbouring places or fields. We only say that this should not be collected.

Q.—Do you want to say anything regarding the collection of rent? A.—Salary is paid only to the village munsif and the karnam. They appoint some persons as Collectors in the zamin. They do not get any salary. They collect a certain amount for each patta. They collect from 4 annas to Rs. 2 according to the patta.

Q.—I suppose this is not included in the patta? A.—No.

Q.—Why do you not represent this to the zamindar? A.—We have told him about this.

Q.—In other places, they are still levying like this only? A.—They say that they are not collecting anything new. This sort of collection should not be done. This is all that I have to say.



Witness No. 229.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. Nithyanantham, Bodinayakkanur.

We have conducted a conference before this and have submitted in the name of the conference replies to the twelve questions of the Government. We have come to represent certain things to this committee. Assessment should indeed be levied at two different rates for wet and dry lands. There should be one uniform rate for wet lands and another uniform rate for dry lands. If the ryots borrow money at 24 per cent and 36 per cent, dig wells, instal water lifts, bale water, toil hard incessantly and try to earn something in return for the amounts that they spend and the trouble that they take, the zamindar levies assessment for that garden at rates varying from 7 panams and 15 panams to 50 panams.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Have you brought the patta to prove this? A.—If the zamindar is asked about this, he himself will admit it. The tax for ragi and maize is 7 panams. It is 12 panams for tobacco, 10 panams for onion and turmeric and 5 panams for brinjal and greens. If betel is grown with irrigation by well-water, they levy an assessment of 40 to 50 panams. If it is a garden with tobacco plantation the assessment is 12 panams per annum per kuli. If it is a garden without tobacco plantation it is 7 panams. It is enough if tobacco is planted in a single year. They levy the same assessment for that land every year. The ryots have filed summary cases protesting against this kind of assessment and have won in several of them. In one judgment 3½ panams was decreed whereas in another 2½ panams was decreed. The evil effect of the summary suits is that the ryots in the zamin have become almost insolvent. This kind of assessment is very unjust. Such injustice is not in evidence in the ayan acres. They have been collecting this for a very long time, for hundreds of years. The ryots are put to great hardship and trouble as a result of this. Secondly, if there is any patta and if it has to be converted into kalam patta, presents should certainly be given. It is not granted without receiving presents. Even if a person has received a patta and has been cultivating the land as a for ten or twelve years they transfer it to another person as soon as he pays money. Proceedings were taken in a court and it was decreed that presents should not be accepted. ("Files judgment copy.") It is very unjust to receive presents.

Q.—It has been decreed that present should not be received. It has been decreed that if you ask for pattas presents should not be received from you. What is to be done if the zamindar refuses to grant patta? A.—Our demand is only that patta should be made to be granted without receiving presents.

Q.—What is to be done if they cease to receive presents openly and receive them secretly? A.—They cannot receive them secretly. There are 500 kulis in the hills in Gunderi village. They have been recently leased out to a person after receiving present at the rate of Rs. 42 per kuli. Though several ryots petitioned the zamindar requesting that land may be leased on to them, he has replied that he could not do so for nothing. In our zamin it is very difficult for the ryots to go and ask anything. They cannot represent the grievances in person. If they start from their houses determined to fight with the zamindar for their demands, they will lose half their spirit as soon as they reach the entrance hall. Even if you go, you cannot but wait for 2½ hours. Even if we wait like this, the gate-keepers intimate and send us away. If we go in spite of all these we are unable to say anything. I had no opportunities to see the zamindar frequently.

Q.—Do you ask for facilities for ryots, agriculturists and all others seeing the zamindar and representing their difficulties to him? A.—Yes.

Mr. M. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—How long is it since the Agriculturists' Association was established? A.—It has been in existence for the past eight or nine months.

Q.—I suppose you can conveniently see him if you go through the association?

A.—Of late the zamindar stays only in Madras. It is stated in the *koduval agaval* record of 1863 that trees, etc., can be cut in the upper hills. It is laid down in the *agaval* that ryots can cut them. But in practice not a single twig can be cut. We cannot cut either wood for agricultural implements or fuel. It is the tradition in the village that, if destruction is caused by fire, rafters and sticks can be taken. This was being done freely before twenty years. But now it is not at all done. If a twig is brought from a live tree the employees of the Forest department will take us to the zamindar at once. In the palace they will impose fines.

Q.—Can you take it after paying them tax? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the tax? A.—One-anna per bundle for a male and half-anna for a female person. It is 8 annas for a cartload.



Q.—Why did you not take proceedings in the court claiming that tax should not be levied. A.—It is only because it entails much expenditure that we are unable to go to the court.

The method of distraint is such as to cause great hardship and is therefore reprehensible. They come to distraint when the crop is growing. They say that they are legally authorized to do so. There is a rule to the effect that the warrant of distraint should come from the Collector. But they distraint with the help of the employees of the Forest department and policemen. As they distraint when the crops are ripe for harvest the ryots are unable to sell the produce. Thus loss is incurred in respect of the produce. If anybody wants to reap the harvest they disallow it on some pretext. The harvest can be reaped only when the officials of the zamin are pleased to allow it. Even if they are to come to the harvest in this manner, they have to be bribed. All these things cause great hardship. We do not know under what law they are distraining like this.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How are they to realize the amount if they are not to levy assessment? A.—They may distraint or proceed to the court and distraint the land. Cattle and movable properties should not be distrained.

Q.—Supposing you have 10 acres of land, how much should be distrained? A.—Only as much extent as can be auctioned for arrears of rent in a single member should be auctioned.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Can the produce be distrained? A.—Yes; the produce can be distrained.

Q.—Can the paddy within the house be distrained? A.—The distraint can be done in the field. Only as much can be distrained as can be taken for the amount we have to pay. Nothing more than that should be distrained. The agricultural implements should not be distrained.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How many of you would have gone to the zamindar for representing these difficulties? A.—None of us has gone recently.

Q.—Have you gone to him and asked for remission of rent at any time? A.—No.

Q.—Have you raised any objection to the practice of levying licence fees for taking leaves, etc., from the hills? A.—The ryots have objected; I did not go.

Q.—What is the extent of your holding in the zamin area? A.—I have 10 acres; in Kottagudi and not in the Bodinayakkanur zamin. Kottagudi forms part of Bodinayakkanur zamin. It is now in the hands of Alagannan Chettiyar.

Q.—Are those 10 acres in the hills? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you raise in them? A.—I am raising nothing.

Q.—I suppose you are not an actual cultivator? A.—No.

Q.—What is your profession? A.—I practice medicine.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Have you any organization for representing the grievances of the agriculturists? A.—Yes. I am engaged only in that work.

Q.—Are you accustomed to help the agriculturists? A.—Yes. I am certainly making efforts for securing all the facilities that they require.

Q.—Are you helping the agriculturist by giving them medicine? A.—I am chiefly engaged in doing propaganda for redressing the grievances of the agriculturists and in doing good to them in all possible ways. In addition to this I am giving medical aid to the ryots.

Q.—Is it not true that as you are not doing cultivation directly you cannot personally understand their difficulties? A.—Though I am not a cultivator myself I am well aware of all their difficulties.

Q.—Is it your work only to go to the villages and study the difficulties of the agriculturists? A.—Yes.

Q.—I suppose you are the President of the Bodi Agriculturists' Association? A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You said that you are helping the agriculturists. Why should you not render that help by going to the zamindar in person and explaining to him that the ryots have such and such difficulties? A.—At present the zamindar is not in the village. The summary suits filed before were not paid heed to and I was not able to explain things even though I went to him and tried on certain occasions when I was in the Congress Committee. I was not able to represent things in person as I was a member of the Congress party and the zamindar belonged to the opposite party.



Q.—You say that you were not able to represent things because you belonged to the Congress party. I ask why the agriculturists should not represent things to the zamindar if they belong to the Congress party. A.—There is nothing like that. We do not get any opportunity for going to him and making representations. If we go and tell him anything he will not believe what we say. We do not get opportunities for seeing him however much we may try and whatever number of times we may go. Even if we get opportunities and go to him we are not sure whether he will do any good. That is why we are unable to represent things.

Q.—Is there any law to the effect that the ryots should not go to and see the zamindar. A.—There is nothing like that.

Q.—Then why should not every one interview him freely? A.—But still it is not possible to interview him freely.

Q.—You have not made any attempt till now, is it not? A.—We are unable to see him in spite of our efforts.

Q.—The division of lands into tarams has been done only before resettlement, is it not? A.—The division has been in vogue for a very long time.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—I suppose you are living only in the village. A.—I am living in Bodinayakanur.

Q.—Are you accustomed to go to the villages and do medical treatment? A.—Yes. I frequently move with the villagers. The villagers are all agriculturists.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—I suppose a free pass is not granted in the zamin for cutting branches and taking fuel. A.—I understand that rich persons have free passes. But poor persons have to go only after taking chits from the place.

Q.—You say that they levy excessive assessment for tobacco plantation. What is the assessment that should be levied for it? A.—We say that only the dry assessment should be levied. The ryots are digging wells only with their own money and are doing cultivation with difficulty. That is why we say that only the wet rate should be levied.

Q.—Tobacco is a harmful thing. It is not beneficial to people. Is it not a cultivation carried on only for commercial purposes? A.—All the people use it in several ways. Even granting that it is cultivated for commercial purposes, it is only a crop raised with much expense and difficulty.

Q.—It is cultivated only in anticipation of large profits, is it not? A.—We get some little profit. The people use it. That is why it is cultivated. If it is considered from that point of view, then trade is carried on in all the dry crops. So a high rate of assessment could have been levied for them also.

Q.—Should there not be difference between things which are harmful to the people and those that are beneficial to them? A.—Tobacco is no doubt a harmful thing. But we cannot say that it is very harmful. Still the people are using it freely. That is why it is cultivated. The ryots do not derive much income from it. They will not agree to give up that cultivation.

Q.—Should not the zamindar get the income from a source from which the ryots derive income? A.—The ryots have no other income. But the zamindar gets income in so many ways. If the ryots carry on cultivation so as to get an income for their maintenance, excessive assessment should not be levied on the ground that they get income through that source. Further, in our zamin the commission in respect of the sale of cattle is also leased out.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You have stated that the rate of assessment obtaining in the zamin should be revised. Do you wish it to be in accordance with the rate obtaining in the ryotwari villages? Will not the zamindar's income become reduced? A.—Apart from cess the zamindar realizes Rs. 950. A rent of Rs. 13,000 and odd is paid to the Government. Other than this, the zamin derives a lot of income from several sources. So the assessment on land should certainly be reduced.

Q.—Do you know that one-third or more of the income derived by the zamindar should be remitted as peshkash? A.—The zamindar realizes more than Rs. 95,000. He pays only Rs. 13,000 and odd as peshkash. If a greater amount of kist is collected he does not pay a greater amount as peshkash.

In the meantime there should be an agent, that is, an agent who is a servant of the Madras Government, for doing things which are required by the zamindar and the ryots. Provision should be made for his salary being paid by the zamindar and for the redress of our grievances through him.



Witness No. 230.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. S. P. Hussain, Municipal Councillor, Bodinayakkanur.

The statement that I make now should be recorded as relating to the Bodinayakkanur zamin and Kottagudi zamin. The Bodinayakkanur zamin is unsurveyed. First of all, it should be surveyed. It is at the foot of the Western Ghats. There is a distance of ten miles between the municipal limit and the mountain. The accounts of the zamin are peshkash accounts. According to that a single number is ever so much extensive. If the zamindar wants he can show a land at the foot of the Travancore hills as being at a distance of one mile from the municipal limits. In the paimash an extent of ten miles will constitute a single number. If the zamindar wants he can show a land at a great distance as being within the municipal limits or nearby. It is therefore very essential to conduct the survey. It is advantageous to both the parties. As regards assessment, if the present assessment ceases to be in force all will be benefited thereby in a way. The system of levying different rates of assessment for tobacco and paddy should be abolished and taramwar assessment should be levied. For the land which the farmers cultivate by their hard toil by digging wells, they collect excessive assessment by levying garden rate in addition to wet rate. It should be abolished. Even to-day they are collecting certain illegal taxes. They levy a kind of tax in the zamin even for coolies and kanganis working in the Travancore estate. They levy a duty on any edible articles that may be cultivated in those lands and brought therefrom. In Kottagudi zamin and Bodinayakkanur zamin, they levy a duty on edible roots and skins brought into the zamins. They are entitled to levy tax only on minor produces. Moreover, they have to come from a distance of ten miles from the Bodinayakkanur zamin. The bullocks tied to the cart only go along the roads. They collect grazing tax for them. (Files a receipt.) It is not reasonable to levy tax on draught bullocks going in public roads. Further, they levy tax on bullocks. They adduce a reason for this. They say that if they are unyoked they will go to and graze in the neighbouring forests. They say that they are levying tax on that account.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Who levied this tax? A.—The Zamindar of Kottagudi.

In the ayan villages, not even one anna per cart-load is charged for stones taken for buildings. If the ryots submit petitions they can take 100 or 200 cart-loads. In the Bodinayakkanur zamin, 12 annas has to be paid for each cart-load. I am nearly 40 years old. In these 40 years I do not remember more than 100 rupees having been spent on the repairs of irrigation works.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you submitted any petition in regard to this matter? A.—The farmers have submitted petitions and are taking action. They bait influential farmers with 10 acres of lands in the hills and they keep quiet.

Q.—Have you taken action by submitting petitions to the Divisional Officer. A.—Mr. Alagannan Chettiyar has taken action. I do not know whether the people of other villages have submitted petitions or not. Further, the system of assigning arable lands to farmers after accepting gifts from them should be abolished. The practice is to assign lands to those pattadars who pay more. It is difficult for the other ryots to get land necessary for their livelihood. That is why I say that this system of assigning land after accepting gifts should be abolished. The zamindar is utilizing the site in the kanmoi. He gets Rs. 400 or 500 from that. They are not therefore repaired. In seasons when there is no rain, crops will grow only on the wet lands of influential persons. Other lands have only to remain waste. As no settlement has been made and as the water-source runs through the Kottagudi Zamin, they construct new sluices and take water. They have acquired a right and are selling water for cash. They receive Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 as cost of the water irrigated during one night. This practice is in evidence. There are difficulties like these. Remedies are provided in the Estates Land Act for the levy of illegal taxes and for irregularities in regard to irrigation, etc. But the ryots are unable to enjoy their rights. As the ryots are poor, they are unable to secure facilities by fighting with the zamindar. An agent should be appointed by the Government and the litigation of the estates should be prevented from going to the Court. Eight or ten zamins should be grouped as one unit and that agent should be left in charge of the affairs of those zamins. An agent similar to those in the big states should be appointed.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Of what rank do you want him to be? A.—He should be one of a Deputy Collector's rank.

Q.—But the Divisional Officers at present are only like agent, is it not? A.—Those officers have no time to attend to all the requirements of the zamin ryots. They have also



to attend to Revenue and Criminal and other matters. There is no officer specially appointed to the transactions between the zamindar and the ryots. The affairs of the zamin ryots may be attended just as is done by the Labour Commissioner and disputes may be set right. We only say that it would be better if there is something like a department which can submit reports to the Government from time to time.

Witness No. 231.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. T. A. V. Ramaswami Chettiyar.

They are collecting the assessment on wet lands and the assessment on dry lands exorbitantly. There are 45 persons included in a joint-patta. One of them pays the assessment in respect of one paimash number. They have not collected the assessment from another person. They bring the land as a whole to auction for the arrears due from one person and take it. I file a document as evidence for their having collected from one person the assessment for the estate as a whole. (Files receipts.) The tanks are all our own. The zamindars have no right in them. They said that the tanks were theirs and began to grant pattas in respect of them. A suit was conducted regarding that. I am filing the concerned record. (Files a document.) They collect the assessment with their own men and they misappropriate them. If we send arrears of assessment by money order, they return it without receiving it. If 4 or 5 persons are in arrears, they say that all persons should pay the assessment together. They demand the rent without granting patta. We have filed a suit in respect of that. On account of this, they filed suits against us under sections 144 and 145. They were decided in our favour. They have now filed a civil suit. A dispute arose in respect of a land in the village. It is a land set apart for the tenants in general from the olden days. The concerned document is not with us now. An injunction suit is proceeding in regard to that in the District Munsif's Court. We have filed the document in that suit.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—I suppose this is all that you have to say? A.—Yes.

Witness No. 234.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. Irulappa Pillai of Kodikulam village (Koomapatti), Saptur zamin.

The witness files 'isthimara.' In those days the rate of rent per 'sankili' was Rs. 8-7-9, i.e., for 3 acres and 64 cents. (He files the patta.) After survey, the rate for wet lands was fixed at Rs. 5-5-10 per acre and for dry lands at Rs. 2-5-4; Rs. 1-2-8; and Re. 0-6-6. (He files pattas.) In fasli 1320, the rate per acre was fixed at Rs. 24. (He files patta.)

	RS.	A.
Cultivation expenses—for 1 acre of wet land—		
Ploughing charge (ten ploughs)	7	8
Manure	5	0
Seeds—5 marakkals	1	8
For repairing the 'varapu,' etc., two coolies	0	8
For planting the seedlings, etc.	2	0
Coolie charge for watering	2	0
Harvest expenses—10 marakkals	2	12
Rent	24	0
Cess	1	2
Total	46	6

Income per acre will amount to 5 pothis, Rs. 8 per pothi (i.e., 30 marakkals)—Rs. 40.

The loss amounts to Rs. 6-6-0.

Even this income can be got only if the land is manured well.

Muthukaruppa Thevan—The patta was not transferred to the acting village munsit. They demand Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 for the transfer of patta. But with a view to collect rent from them, they involve them in court litigations. If a partition of property is effected among the heirs and if they demand transfer of pattas, they refuse to transfer. They filed a summary suit. But they were asked first to pay off the outstanding arrears.



The arrears were not paid. The suit was not filed. Unless Rs. 10 per 100 were given to them for wet lands, they will not transfer the pattas, i.e., for a land worth about Rs. 1,000, a commission of Rs. 100 must be given.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Who is to value the land?

A.—They themselves.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—The money goes to their treasury?

A.—Yes.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do they give receipt for the commission of Rs. 10 per hundred you give?

A.—They do not give any receipt. But, they transfer the pattas, if the money is paid.

Q.—What acknowledgment do you get for the money you pay? Do you pay it directly to the zamindar? Or do you pay it to their agents?

A.—We must pay it directly to the zamindar. Then only pattas will be transferred.

Q.—Does that custom prevail now?

A.—We are not able to pay so now. Pattas will be transferred to persons who give money and will not be transferred to persons who don't pay.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Was this custom in vogue when the estate was under the Court of Wards?

A.—This custom did not exist then.

Q.—Did it exist before the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—Only now after the advent of this Maharaja. It did not prevail before his time.

Meeravusan Rowther (patta No. 3) filed a suit asking for a patta. The suit was favourable to him. (He files a paper.) The judgment copy is not available. I file the petition which I submitted. Patta No. 231 belongs to a 'Parian.' There was an arrear of Rs. 4-9-10 to be paid. Incurring an expenditure of Rs. 4 for stamps, they sold the punja land (No. 122) in auction and got it for 8 annas. For the amount still remaining as arrears, they filed a suit.

Patta No. 138 belongs to Muthukaruppa Konan. There were ten heirs to that property. Pattas were not transferred to them. For arrears of kist, wet lands worth about Rs. 1,000 were sold in auction. Rs. 30 were offered for the transfer of patta. But the pattas were not transferred. One acre was sold in auction. Thinking that, if he pays  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the kist and the expenses incurred they would transfer the patta, he paid  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the kist amount. But yet the pattas are not transferred. The land is still in his enjoyment.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANCAR : Q.—How many years is it since this has happened?

A.—For 10 years he is enjoying the lands.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Why do they refuse to transfer the patta and yet leave the land in his possession?

A.—I don't know. He is enjoying the lands free. They do not collect rent for them. Perhaps they are thinking of getting the land from him in some future days. Otherwise how can they get that land. (He produces certain records.)

Mohideenpana Rowther is pattadar of patta No. 502. His lands were sold in auction for 2 annas for arrears of kist. On 5th May 1926, he paid  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the kist amount. Still the patta is not transferred. (He produces records.)

Q.—For how long is this happening?

A.—Only during the time of this zamindar. Now they collect 'sathalvar.'

They collect 8 annas as 'sathalvar' for preparing and sending accounts in connexion with auction of lands for arrears of kist. There was no such custom before. This has come into practice only during the time of the present zamindar.

Q.—Have you got receipt for the lands which have been sold in auction before?

A.—Yes. I will file it. (He files records.) They have collected 8 annas as 'sathalvar' for patta No. 82; 4 annas for patta No. 310 from Irulappa Pillai and party. For patta No. 102 they did not get any 'sathalvar.' Then it was under Court of Wards.

The pattadars of patta No. 86 asked for the transfer of pattas after the death of their father. But without transferring the pattas they were about to sell the land in auction for arrears of rent. But now the amount of Rs. 23, including Rs. 6 as cost, has been paid.

Patta No. 42 belongs to Karur Srinivasa Ayyangar. In 1912 his lands were sold to many ryots. Till now these lands were not subdivided and pattas granted to the various ryots. That Srinivasa Ayyangar has now passed away. Now they don't know



to whom they are to issue notice for arrears of rent. The lands are not yet sold in auction. I will now give particulars as regards that. (He produces records.)

Shumuga Thevar has died some 20 years back. That patta has not yet been transferred. The father of the present Karnam Muniappa Pillai has passed away. Till now the list of heirs for his property has not been prepared.

Q.—He is a karnam? Did he not write any petition asking for transfer of pattas?

A.—He wrote and got an endorsement.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Why is not the patta transferred?

A.—They have replied that it is not fit to be transferred now.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Have you got that order? Has he come?

A.—That order is. He has not come.

Another place of land. Even the sale-deed of that land was registered, money was remitted in the Sub-Registrar's office and transfer of patta was asked for. But till now the patta is not transferred. (He produces the sale-deed.)

There is a plot of 'Kavul' land in our village. Many purchased it. Litigation ensued between the ryots and the zamindar and High Court decided that it belonged to the ryots. The zamindar transferred it to a Mudaliyar. The latter sold them in bits to many ryots and the right of the ryots to the possession of those lands is an established fact. It is ordered that the zamindar must transfer the patta which is in the name of the Mudaliyar to the several ryots. Still the pattas are not transferred.

The lands of pattadar of patta No. 217 were sold in auction for arrears of kist. Subsequently he remitted the money in the Tirumangalam taluk treasury. He was not able to remit the full amount. He is a Pallan. His lands were sold in auction for the remaining sum. The lands are worth about Rs. 1,500. When suit was filed for the arrears, his name was not entered in the patta. No notice was sent to him. To collect the sum, they file a suit in the civil court. The properties at home were distrained. The name of the deceased man's son was not entered in the patta.

Forest was not included in the 'isthimira.' It was in the enjoyment of the ryots. Their cattle used to graze everywhere till now. Our village is 7 miles distant from the mountain. The cattle will be kept there itself and no tax was collected for that place. Until 1918, there was no objection to cutting trees for making agricultural implements such as ploughs, etc. Afterwards the Court of Wards made the forest as reserved forest and grazing in the forest was prohibited. But we defied the order and enjoyed our previous right. It is said that a survey has been made in the time of the present zamindar. But there is nothing to show that a survey was made. But, if a bull enters the forest, they collect Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 as compensation. As far as Government forest is concerned, if one gets a receipt after paying 4 annas in a range, the cattle can graze throughout the forest. In the case of the zamindars, the cattle can graze only in one forest and if they enter another forest, the owners are fined Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. The zamin rate is 8 annas. If that amount is paid, they give a receipt with a seal. Then the cattle can graze in any forest. The charge for rams to graze in any forest is 6 annas.

Q.—Are there receipts with seal and without seal?

A.—Yes. (He produces the receipts.)

There are 'Thotti Chakkilians' in our village. They used to supply the ryots with 'val vadam' from the leather taken from the dead animals. If they remove and take away the plants known as "avaranchedi," that are grown everywhere, they are asked to pay compensation.

We are poor. The ferocious nature of the zamindar will be evident from the records in Tirumangalam Court. We have paid a good amount of compensation. There are no specified persons to collect the forest tax. Anybody may collect.

Q.—Is there a forester or not?

A.—There is a forester. But anybody, will drive the cattle and collect the penalty.

The sheep of Kunchiammal and five other persons were grazing together. There were receipts for 19 sheep of Kunchiammal and there were no receipt for some. She asked for one month's time to get the receipts for the remaining sheep. The forest watcher gave us trouble. His name is Muthuveerasami Naicker. He told us that he would keep quiet and would not trouble them if they give him money. She gave him Rs. 4. The forest watcher then gave her permission to get the receipts after one month. After 5 or 6 days he once again demanded money from her. She promised to give him after a week. He threatened to cause some trouble to her. When her sheep, after grazing in the 'ayan' forest went to drink water, he drove them all away and now she is asked to pay a compensation of Rs. 200. Goats are not allowed to graze. The charge for a goat to graze in a reserved forest is Re. 1½. If we have a receipt with a



seal, our cattle can graze anywhere. If we pay the usual amount, our cattle can graze only in one 'beat.' We must be allowed to construct 'pattais' in the forests; to take sufficient amount of manure and green manure from the forests. We will not sell them. The thing is both of us must have a right for them.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—You have told that the zamindar causes you trouble with regard to 'Natham', 'Kalam,' path and 'poramboke' lands and that thereby he is doing things against the welfare of the public. What is that?

A.—I am the president of panchayat court. I asked for a plot of land for constructing a road. The local board has sanctioned Rs. 3,000 for it. The zamindar has refused to give away that land. I asked the zamindar in person. I wrote to him. I reported the matter to the Collector. The zamindar refused to assign that land. Hence the road work was dropped.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Why can't you ask the Collector to acquire the land?

A.—The Collector told that we must settle the question ourselves and that it would take a long time for them to acquire that land.

Q.—What else troubles have they caused you?

A.—They grow trees in the 'manthai' and prevent our cattle resting there. There is an 'urani' which had been dug out by our ancestor. It is in need of repair. Yet the cultivation of crops is going on. We are not allowed to cultivate in that part. Even when we say that we are prepared to dig out the 'urani' deeper we are not allowed to do so. We are not allowed also to carry out repairs. There is a common 'kalam.' They have asked somebody to cultivate some crops in that piece of land.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do they supply you with facilities of 'patha-daipu' for harvesting?

A.—They do not. The zamindar himself gets it in person. Or his agents get it.

Q.—The agents collect it with the sanction of the zamindar?

A.—Yes. We must be allowed to take and enjoy any green manure that is available on the sides of roads, etc. The zamindar prevents us from taking them. They utilize the water, intended for the tank, for cultivation purposes in 'pannai' dry lands and hence sufficient water is not available for ayacut wet lands. They build their own bund and 'madai' and divert the water flowing to the 'ayan' area, to these 'madais.' Any breach in the madai or bund here causes to the ryots loss to the amount of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000. We have submitted petitions regarding all these things. (He produces records.)

The people have built houses in the nattam and are living there for a long time. Now they are asked to vacate the houses.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—You told us that they used to water their lands with the help of the 'madai' and bund they have constructed and that breaches often occur thereby causing damage to your lands. Whose lands are they?

A.—They cultivate those lands.

Q.—Are they the zamindar's own 'pannai' lands?

A.—There are lands which are belonged to the ryots but which were let in auction for arrears of kist. They have cultivated even the cremation ground. The poramboke lands belong to us.

Q.—The water is used for the pannai lands of the zamindar? Are those lands not hereditary lands?

A.—No. They were purchased during auctions.

Q.—When was the land purchased in auction?

A.—Patta No. 193 was purchased in auction twenty years back.

Q.—Can you prove that those lands were purchased in auction?

A.—In the suit they were also included.

Q.—In whose name is the patta now?

A.—It is in the name of the zamindar.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—Where are those suit records.

A.—They are not readily available. Hence I have not brought them.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—They say that those lands were their own lands and that they were not purchased in auction?

A.—It is a lie. They were cultivated only some eight or nine years back.

Q.—During whose time were they purchased in auction?

A.—They were purchased in auction during the time of the Court of Wards.

Some people have built houses in the poramboke. They collect rent for that also.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are not the houses built in nattam poramboke in the zamindar's land?

A.—Our ancestors also had built houses there.



Q.—How is it that they have been included in their patta?

A.—I don't know that.

Q.—Has survey been made?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Why did you not object then?

A.—Then they did not demand taxes. We did not receive notices.

Q.—Did Government make survey?

A.—It is the Government that made the survey.

Q.—The survey was made in the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—Yes.

They collect stamp fees from the ryots for the expenses that are to be incurred in letting a land for auction for arrears of rent. If the arrears are cleared in time and the auction stopped, they get back the stamp fees from the Collector's office. But they do not give it back to us.

They do not assess any rent for 'karampu' and 'tharisu' lands which are recently reclaimed and cultivated and for which the karnam has prepared the 'thavanai.' We sent a petition to the Collector and Tahsildar stating that these lands must be taxed. For that, we received an endorsement to the effect that they would not interfere with the affairs of the zamindar. They issue an order that the lands cannot be assigned to the petitioner's as they requested and that the lands must be vacated. The land of another ryot also was about to be let in auction for arrears of rent. (He produces certain records.) The arrears of kist have been paid. Now for the arrears of kist due for fasli 1347, they prevent him from harvesting the crop and they want to appropriate it for themselves. He submitted a petition to the Sub-Collector, Usilampatti. He asked him to report the matter to the Select Committee.

Producing another patta. They have collected Rs. 30 in excess from him as rent. There is receipt for it. He is a poor Harijan.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Why do they get so?

A.—They get so from illiterate people. His is Subba Kudumban of patta No. 453.

Q.—What is the rent according to the patta? How much have they collected?

A.—The pattadar's name is Subba Kudumban of patta No. 453 in Kodikulam. The rent amounts Rs. 90 and odd. But they have collected from him Rs. 120 and odd. Referring to the patta, he says, it is shown as Rs. 94 and odd in the patta. They have collected Rs. 130 from him. This only for fasli 1345.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Were there no arrears for the previous faslis?

A.—No.

Q.—How can you say so?

A.—There are no arrears. They have stated that the rent collected is only for one fasli. They have fixed a certain rate of rent for the wet lands approved by the Government. In the 'isthimira' it is stated that the zamindar has no right to them. We pay to the Government the quit-rent for the usual seasonal harvest. They collect Rs. 6 as 'chatram vari.' If there are any successful harvest in summer, we pay Rs. 24½ in accordance with the rate prevailing in the neighbourhood. We had a protracted suit in the High Court and spent Rs. 2,000. (He shows some records.) We sent petitions demanding irrigation repairs. During the time of the Court of Wards, there was a regular staff consisting of overseer, land record inspector and surveyor. After that time, nothing is carried out properly. In response to our petition asking for the execution of these repairs, the Collector asked the Manager to look and do the needful. That is all. Nothing more was done. When the Sub-Collector tours our parts, he is the guest of the zamindar. What can the ryots expect from him? • •

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—You say that the Divisional officer halted in the zamindar's bungalow and did not do you any good. Did you send any petition to the Collector?

A.—We sent a petition to the District Collector. He sent the Divisional officer.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Had the Collector visited your village?

A.—During the time of the Court of wards he paid a visit.

Q.—Was he too then a guest of the zamindar? (Before the witness answered the question Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar put the next question.)

Q.—Is there any other place for lodging?

A.—No. We can lodge in a banglow which is 3 miles off.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM (after referring to the patta produced by the witness to show that Rs. 30 was collected in excess of the usual rent): Q.—They have given the receipt for fasli 1343 in fasli 1345. How can you say that they have collected rent in excess?

A.—We showed it to the karnam of the village who told that they had collected an excess amount unknowingly.

Q.—On this ground, how can you say that they have collected rent in excess of what was due?

A.—I know what is the amount of rent that is due. There is no doubt that they have collected the rent in excess. The pattas for fasli 1343 and 1345 are one and the same.

Our kammai and the 'ayan' are watered by the same river. We are charged Rs. 24 per acre for the water we utilize whereas in the 'ayan kammai' the rate is only Rs. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ . (He shows the plan.)

A breach was made in the 'kammai' due to excessive floods. We sent petitions asking for repairs to be done. We waited for one month. The Revenue Inspector also inspected the place. The repairs were not carried out till 7th December 1933. We repaired the breach ourselves at an expense of Rs. 123-12-0 and sent a petition to the zamindar. (He shows the petition) stating that we have repaired it at our cost and that it must be repaid to us. The expended money was not paid back to us. Nor have we received any reply. The prevailing rates in Kansapuram village, which is an ayan village, in Poothikulam kammai are Rs. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  and Rs. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Our rates range from Rs. 20 to Rs. 24.

Q.—Did they raise the rent in 1909 during the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—Yes. The rents were increased only in the time of the Court of Wards.

Q.—Was there no change afterwards?

A.—No.

Q.—The ryots did not file any suit for reduction of rent after that time?

A.—We filed a suit in 1930. We were asked to pay the full amount and then file a suit for the disputed amount only. We were not able to pay the money.

Q.—What became of your suit in the Court of the Deputy Collector?

A.—We were asked to pay the full amount minus the disputed amount. We were not able to pay. The suit was dismissed.

Q.—Did you file an appeal in the Court of the District Collector against the decision of the Deputy Collector?

A.—He also asked us, like the Subordinate Court, to pay the full amount.

Q.—Did the District Court give you time to remit the money?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you got judgment copies?

A.—No.

Q.—Will you send if available?

A.—We did not get copies of the judgment.

Q.—You told that pattas were not transferred for the lands of Karur Srinivasa Ayyangar. Are there a good number of purchasers?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they send notices to all the purchasers?

A.—No.

Q.—The sale took place in 1912?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was it in the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you submit any petition then asking for the transfer of pattas?

A.—Perhaps they might have done. I do not know that.

Q.—It was under the control of the Court of Wards till 1922?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Even now the partners have not sent any petition?

A.—They have submitted a petition jointly.

Q.—In which year?

A.—In 1934.

Q.—Have you got a copy for that?

A.—I have not brought it.



Q.—Did the Court of Wards reserve the forests?

A.—The forests were reserved only in the time of zamindar.

Q.—Was it not done in the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—No. We did not receive any notice to that effect.

Q.—How many acres of land have you got?

A.—Five acres of wet and 2 acres of dry lands.

Q.—Do you cultivate them yourselves?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the value of 1 acre of wet land?

A.—It ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500. But there are nobody to purchase.

Q.—Were no sales effected for the last five or six years?

A.—No.

Q.—Do they lease out lands in the village?

A.—No. They themselves plough the land.

Q.—Has the zamindar got lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are those lands leased out?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How much will be zamindar get?

A.—I don't know how much the zamindar gets from one acre.

Q.—Do the villagers of that same village get lands on lease?

A.—The villagers of neighbouring villages also do so.

Q.—Are they zamin ryots or 'ayan' ryots?

A.—There may be some zamin ryots.

Q.—People of your village do not get lands on the lease system?

A.—Nobody seems to have done so.

Q.—Do the 'ayan' and zamin ryots get lands on lease system?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You told that the rents for fasli 1343 were collected. Did you ask that amount to be refunded?

A.—Petition has been submitted.

Q.—Has he submitted it by registered post?

A.—He said that he gave the petition in person. That pattadar's name is Marudha Kudumban.

Q.—Has that person come over here?

A.—No.

Q.—Has he sent written petition?

A.—He said that he has sent written petition.

Q.—What reply did the zamindar give?

A.—No reply came from the zamindar.

Q.—Did he not send a petition to the Collector?

A.—No. He has no money to spend.

Q.—Has the zamindar given pattas for 'Samuthayam' lands?

A.—No. He has given pattas for 4 or 5 cents in Kodikulam 'kanmai.'

Q.—You have told me that the charge for wet lands is Rs. 24. Is there no rate less than that?

A.—There are reduced rates as at Rs. 10, Rs. 16 and Rs. 18.

Q.—How many acres of land bear that rate?

A.—There are 250 acres of land bearing the rate of Rs. 24 per acre. At reduced rates, there are only 4, 5 or 6 acres. In the 'kanmais' of Kodikulam, Kunavanthaneri and Pungangulam, the prevailing rate is Rs. 24.

Q.—Did the Government file a suit against the zamin ryots stating that water must not be given to the zamin ryots?

A.—The suit was filed not to prevent the supply of water to the zamin ryots. It centred round a dispute regarding the 'anicut'. The dispute was with regard to the fact that they had dug out deeply near the anicut. The ryots of 'ayan' lands filed a suit against the zamindar and vice versa.

Q.—Did the zamindar incur any expenditure?

A.—May be. I don't know.

Q.—Is there enmity between you and the zamindar?

A.—There is no enmity between us.



Witness No. 235.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. Muthu Maniam of Saptur.

The people living in villages that are situated two or three miles away from here have come here for representing their difficulties. We are experiencing much hardship in the headquarters of the district. It is now sixteen years since the zamindar succeeded to the title. He has not granted any patta so far. We submitted a petition to him in this connexion and also represented the matter to him personally. He has not done anything for us. The pattas are not being transferred. We are paying the kist at the rates demanded by the karnam and the village headmen. We have to take any receipt that is granted by them. If we question them about it we cannot get on here. When this estate was formerly under the management of the Court of Wards, they were effecting repairs to the kanmois through an overseer who was paid not less than Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 and were storing a large quantity of water sufficient for irrigating the lands for six months. This was very convenient. Ever since the Maharaja succeeded to the title, no repairs have been done. No repairs are done to the sluices. They have discharged the water which would be sufficient for one year. They have done so with the object of making it impossible for the ryots to raise paddy. There is a river which feeds the kanmoi. Although water was coming through only one river there was also another river closeby. They were allowing equal quantities of water to flow from these two rivers. As the sluice was not repaired it has collapsed. A large quantity of water is rushing out through it and is entering the village. As a result of this all the people including children are suffering. We are undergoing several kinds of hardships. It wastes away the earth from the ryots' lands which are close to it. It converts high level into low level and vice versa. It fills the wells with deposits of mud. We are unable to remove all this mud therefrom and carry on cultivation. The rate of rent in respect of wet cultivation was Rs. 5-5-10 per acre till fasli 1338. From fasli 1339, the rates of rent per acre are Rs. 18, Rs. 14 and Rs. 11. What is the yield per acre? The yield in our land is 4 or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  podhis. We would have spent Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 therefor. We will sell it for Rs. 28. We would have borrowed money even before the harvest. We have to repay the loan by selling our paddy immediately after the harvest. It is not sufficient even for paying.

There will therefore be no means of repaying the kist. Suits are filed in the panchayat court and consequently we suffer. We have to give two head-loads of hay for every acre. We have to weigh it in a balance with the bigger weight and then give it to them. God alone should help us. We have to supply them with hay over and above the stipulated quantity.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Have you got to give hay also besides rent?

A.—We have to give not only to them but also to those related to them. There will be Land Record Inspectors. There will be ever so many other persons. We have to give it to all of them. There will be forest men. We have to give it to them. We have to give it to those who are in the office. We had been levying water-rate at the rate of Rs.  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per acre. They are now collecting at the rate of Rs. 18, Rs. 14 and Rs. 11. We have been grazing cattle on the hill. We had been removing firewood. We should not sell it. We had been removing as much firewood as was required for domestic use. We had been removing the trees required for making ploughs. We were free to fell trees for the purpose of making posts, etc., for the water-lift. Important trees should not be felled. After this Maharaja's succession to the title, we cannot fell trees for making ploughs. We cannot remove firewood. We cannot graze cattle. Such restrictions are being imposed. These restrictions are intolerable. There are two or three tanks in one place. He opened a sluice and thereby allowed the dry lands of his relatives to be irrigated. As a result of this, cattle have no means of drinking water. Bullocks have to be bathed in the tank near the banyan tree. Cattle have to be taken only with muzzles on. If they trample upon the waste lands adjoining the pathway, they will be taken to the palace and detained there. Half a rupee per buffalo and a quarter of a rupee for bull or cow or calf have to be paid. If they are not redeemed immediately, the cost for feeding them has to be paid. A tank must be provided for bathing bullocks. There are 4,000 acres of dry land excluding poramboke lands. There are also 300 acres of wet land. I live in the kasba. He has 2,500 acres of private dry land and 210 acres of private wet land. He has bought land for one anna in auction. Patta must be granted after receiving two and a half times the rent. There are trees—such as tamarind trees and coconut trees on patta lands. If we want to fell them, he prevents us from felling them. He takes away the cart to the palace. Those who are somewhat strong disobey him. Those who are poor pay a fine. He collects money through pattas for the maintenance of tanks and choultries. He collects Rs. 16 for every



100 rupees. He does not spend the amount. He collects  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rupees for the choultry. Nobody is fed. He sees to it that one or two of his relations go and eat there. It is wrong on his part to utilize the money given by us for purposes of charity for feeding his relations. That practice should be stopped. Repairs should be effected through Government in return for the money paid by us.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Were these amounts collected even during the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—We were paying. Charity was being performed. They were indeed repairing kanmois.

A person would have bought two bullocks after paying Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a year and would be using them for ploughing. The zamindar has ordered that we should plough our lands only after we have ploughed and cultivated his lands. We must cultivate our lands only after we have ploughed his lands for 10 or 15 days and the cultivation thereof is over. Besides ploughing, I have to be starving.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Is any money paid for ploughing?

A.—It is done only gratis. He will give only water. He will not give even food.

Those who are having carts and bullocks must lend them to him whenever he wants them.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—I suppose no hire is paid?

A.—No hire is paid. Not even a pie is paid.

There is fuller's earth which is used by the washerman. He will load it on his donkey only after paying 2 annas or 4 annas every time he removes it. There are Swamis and Nayakars immediately below the Maharaja. We have to plough even for them. Two of us beat each other. If we go to the Maharaja, we will have to appear only before them. They will hear the case that day. They will levy a fine of Rs. 100 or Rs. 50. Keeping in mind the fact that the bullocks did not come for ploughing. If the fine is not paid, they will order the castemen not to speak to us. We will then have to wander about like a dog or a camel. The money collected as fine was constituted into a fund and two persons appropriated it. These two persons have built houses at a cost of Rs. 5,000 each.

Q.—Do they collect fines with or without the knowledge of the zamindar?

A.—They collect them only with his knowledge.

Q.—Who receives them?

A.—There is one Chinnaswami. They should be paid to him. The place where we are residing is very cramped. The farm-house is big. It is at a distance of two miles. We too form 1,000 families. In January last ten or thirty persons 'fell sick' as they had no place to lie down and thirty persons died. They have farm-houses. We abandoned them in lieu of the fine. Those houses must be restored to us.

Q.—Are these houses bought by the zamindar in auction?

A.—They are only houses appropriated by him on account of our inability to pay the fine.

Q.—Who abandoned those houses?

A.—They were abandoned by our ancestor 30 or 40 or 50 years ago.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is there no record?

A.—No. We are poor tenants.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—You referred to a pound? Is it a zamin pound or a Government pound?

A.—There is a separate Government pound. If the cattle are taken to the palace and impounded there, they will enter his buildings.

Q.—Does he collect money for it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are accounts maintained?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Have you preferred a complaint?

A.—I have come here to-day in fear. Am I old enough to prefer a complaint?

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—You have stated that, if a patta is not transferred, the zamindar must be fined Rs. 50. What about that?

A.—Good must be done to us. We do not say that he should be fined.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How much land have you?

A.—I have 2 acres of wet land and 6 or 7 acres of dry land.

Q.—What is the total amount of rent that you pay for the wet lands?

A.—I pay Rs. 30 for the wet lands and Rs. 33 including the cess. I pay Rs. 7 or Rs.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  for the dry lands.



Q.—How did you acquire this land?

A.—I acquired it 20 years ago.

Q.—Were you in the Police 10 years ago?

A.—I was in the Police for 10 or 20 years and I then fell ill and resigned the job. I have not been in the Police for the last 10 years.

Q.—Why did they remove you from the Police?

A.—I have submitted my resignation.

Q.—Did they accept your resignation?

A.—They accepted it.

Q.—You acquired the land only after you said that you did not want an appointment in the Police. Is that not so?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you buy it for cash?

A.—I carried on business. I earned money by toiling hard and bought it.

Q.—For what amount did you buy wet lands?

A.—I bought them for Rs. 1,700.

Q.—In which year?

A.—In fasli 1327.

Q.—What will it cost to cultivate this wet land?

A.—It will cost Rs. 40 for two acres. It will cost Rs. 40 if they are cultivated without applying manure to them. It will cost Rs. 80 if manure is applied.

Q.—What is the yield?

A.—The yield is Rs. 100.

Q.—Does the amount of Rs. 80 include the kist?

A.—It will cost Rs. 80 besides the kist.

Q.—What is the amount of kist you pay?

A.—I pay Rs. 34, that is, 4 rupees more than Rs. 30.

Q.—How much profit will you derive?

A.—A well has been dug. I will grow maize in the well. That is the only profit.

Q.—Is not second-crop assessment levied in respect of maize?

A.—He levies Rs. 3 or Rs.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or Rs.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per acre for that also. We pay that also.

Q.—Is there any record for that?

A.—I have none now. I shall get a cart-load of records to-morrow.

Q.—Does the zamindar lease out his own lands?

A.—Yes. He also cultivates them himself.

Q.—Is the land cultivated by him in the *kaspa* excessive in extent?

A.—It is indeed excessive. He also allows a small extent of land to be cultivated on *varam* tenure.

Q.—What is the extent of land cultivated by him this year?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is the cultivation of his own lands over or not?

A.—Transplantation is still going on.

Q.—What do the lessees pay to him in respect of the lands leased to them?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—I suppose that when you bought the lands you borrowed money for the purpose?

A.—I bought it out of the profit derived from my business.

Q.—You did not borrow any money at all?

A.—I borrowed later. I became a debtor only as a result of cultivating wet lands.

Q.—Did you or did you not borrow when you bought wet lands? I suppose you have no other land except these lands?

A.—I have 6 or 7 acres of dry land. I own shops also.

Q.—Have you any debt now?

A.—I have a debt of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400.

Q.—I suppose you have no property except lands?

A.—I own two shops worth Rs. 1,500. I have a house worth Rs. 200.

Q.—When did you buy the shops?

A.—More than ten years ago.

Q.—You borrowed money for buying the shop. Have you repaid the amount?

A.—I did not borrow money for buying the shop. I borrowed it only for agricultural purposes.



Q.—How did you buy the shop?

A.—I bought it out of the profit.

Q.—You said that you bought the shops ten years ago? How did you buy them?

A.—I bought them out of the profit realized from the business.

Q.—Where did you carry on business in the beginning?

A.—I carried on my business in a rented building. I bought them out of the amount earned from it.

Q.—What price will your wet lands fetch now?

A.—They are now offering Rs. 500 for the whole lot.

Q.—What is the price of an acre?

A.—One may buy an acre for Rs. 150 or Rs. 200.

Q.—Wet land or dry land?

A.—Wet land, of course. Nobody will buy dry land.

Q.—Is wet land available for Rs. 150 or Rs. 200?

A.—One may certainly buy at that price. I am prepared to sell my wet lands if there is an offer.

Q.—Are you prepared to part with your land?

A.—I shall part with it.

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Witness No. 236.

Madura.

24th September 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Ramayya Nadar of Athipatti.**

They are blocking up the water coming through the irrigation channels and refusing to let it flow. We are consequently incurring loss. They are blocking up to water that will be sufficient for irrigating 100 acres of land and are irrigating only 50 or 60 acres of land with that water. We made ever so many efforts to get this state of affairs remedied; but they were all in vain.

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Witness No. 237.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Krishnaswami Nayudu of Ramachandrapuram, Seithur zamin.**

The chain account was maintained in the Raghunathapuram village of the Seithur zamin before the year 1920. In that year the account in terms of the acre was introduced and a settlement was made. When the chain account was in vogue, all the wells of the owners of the land were noted in the pattas. At that time, one column called irrigation was set apart. It was noted therein whether the irrigation was manavari or by baling out from the well. It was also noted whether the well was an old one or a new one. When the acre and cent were introduced in 1920, they granted new pattas. They have granted them without noting in the column headed 'irrigation' whether it is manavari or well-water irrigation or whether the well is old or new. They have done so because after the settlement they have now surveyed 32 wells as belonging to the zamin. The area of the wells may be about 4 or 5 cents. They say that only the wells which are situated in the middle of 4 acres land belong to the zamin and try to attach them to the zamin.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—In which year was the survey conducted? A.—In 1920. In the patta granted before that year, it is noted as the old well. (He produces the patta.) They have not added a footnote in the patta granted before 1920. They have added it in the patta granted subsequently. (Referring to the footnote, he says):—They have stated that this will not serve as an authority if any disputes arise between the ryot and the zamindar and that this is only mere paper. They say that the 32 wells belong to the zamin. They ask us to pay the price of the wells which belong to us and which we are enjoying from the year 1920. Before the zamindar of Seithur bought this village, it was in the hands of some persons. These wells existed even at that time, when the village belonged to those persons. They say that those old wells belong to the zamin and demand their price. We are saying that we cannot pay it. After 1920, they continued some machinations and are cheating some persons who do not know the facts by telling them that the wells were sold to the zamindar by certain people. Last year they duped some



persons and have given them the patta after receiving Rs. 40 or Rs. 50. Still there are 32 wells. It should be decided that the wells belong only to the tenants who are cultivating the land by baling out water from them. There is much difficulty in regard to the transfer of a patta. They collect some fees for it and also for certain other matters and do not give receipts therefor. They collect the fees saying that they cannot give the receipt just then. Though we have paid for several years fees known as subdivision fees and mamul fees still patta is not transferred. When we fail to pay the assessment, they do not give us notice that the land is being brought to auction. As the notice is sent through the officers in whom they are interested and through the persons who collect the assessment, it is not properly served. We do not know when the auction takes place. In the zamin, they auction even 8 or 10 acres of land for arrears of 8 annas or 4 annas and take the lands. We do not know when the period of notice expires. Later we have even to pay the price of the land and get it back. It is said that such troubles exist even in the matter of applying for loans in the zamin area. The land is sold in auction without the knowledge of the tenants. They find it difficult to borrow even through the land mortgage bank. These grievances should be redressed.

Witness No. 238.

Madura.

24th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ponnuswami Tevar of Seithur.

I represent the grievances felt in eight villages including Sundararajapuram. In the village of Muthuswamiyapuram there are 24,358 acres. The ryots have 3,334 acres of wet land. In the zamin estate there are 880 acres. There are 1,138 acres of inam land. The survey has been conducted and the assessment has been settled. Before 1918 there was the system of varam. From Rs. 11-6-0 to Rs. 19-6-0 per acre is levied for single crop wet land without consideration to the conditions in the ayan area. For dry land the rates are one rupee and half a rupee. The rate for double crop land is Rs. 5. It is laid down that if paddy is cultivated assessment may be levied. If those who have wells cultivate, they levy Rs. 5. It was contended that after the settlement tax should not be levied for the second crop. It was disposed of by the Deputy Collector's Court. In the system of varam after 1918 the general expenses incurred on the produce of paddy should be borne by the zamin. The kulaikkattu for a kottai is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  measures. The superintending charges for a kottai of 2.03 acres is 4 measures. The urai per kottai of melvaram paddy is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  measures. The swatantaram is 4 marakals and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  measures. The urai per kottai of kudivaram paddy belongs to the ryots. The coolie per kottai of harvested crop is two marakals for brackish ground. After meeting out the above general expenses, melvaram and kizhvaram are half and half. The melvaram has to be paid from kudivaram.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How long has this state of affairs been in existence? A.—It was till fasli 1340.

Q.—How long has this practice been in evidence now? A.—It is in evidence only now. He assumed charge in 1904. This practice has been in evidence from that time.

Q.—How was it before? A.—It was not like this before. I have heard so. I do not know.

Q.—Is there any other patta to prove that all these have not been in evidence? A.—No.

Q.—Is there any record to prove that conditions were favourable previously? A.—I have heard so from my elders. There is no other record.

Q.—Have you got an earlier patta? A.—No.

Q.—Are there no papers connected with it? A.—No.

Land is sold away by auction. In a single patta there are five pattadars. They have sold the land by auction for the reason that one person has not paid. Forty-five cents have been auctioned. They have received a price of Rs. 144 for that. Of their own lands they have let more than half on lease at the rate of Rs. 10 per acre. That is wet land. In the zamin there is no tank which is very long and broad. We who use the same tank for irrigation are levied a tax of Rs. 19.

Q.—They have let the patta land on lease. Will that be a good land? A.—No. All the lands are of the same taram.



Q.—How much land have they let? A.—About 144 acres.

Q.—Are there lands in that tank? A.—No.

Q.—Have they let lands on lease this year? A.—They have let on lease this year also.

Q.—Have they let it wantonly to their loss? A.—No. The lease was only taken by auction in the zamin.

Q.—Is there any record to show that the lease was taken by auction? A.—There is. (Files a document.) A few words have to be said in regard to penal assessment. Some dry lands are situated on the banks of kanmois. They get soaked with water. Only paddy can be cultivated in them. No dry crops can be cultivated. They will be ploughed and dry cultivation will be done in them. They levy penal assessment for this. It is very iniquitous. They have levied penal assessment at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre. According to account No. 6 they have levied a penal assessment of Rs. 56 for 56 cents.

Q.—Have you paid this? A.—Yes. The next year they have levied a tax of Rs. 28 for the same land.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Who is that ryot? A.—A woman named Thilakammal.

Q.—Why should that land be cultivated at least after paying so much assessment? A.—There is wet land all around that land. Dry crops cannot be raised. They have submitted petitions requesting that assessment may be levied at the rate prevailing in the neighbourhood.

Q.—Should you not submit petition requesting that it may be treated as percolation wet land? A.—They have submitted petitions. But no orders have been received till now on them.

Q.—What will be the value of that land? A.—It will be worth Rs. 50.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are they still cultivating that land? A.—Yes.

Q.—Are they carrying on cultivation like this and paying assessment at the rate of Re. 1 per cent? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you therefore want to do cultivation in spite of the fact that so much penal assessment is levied? A.—They are doing cultivation only in the hope that if they do like this it will be converted into wet land. In patta No. 60 of Kovilur, the patta of Pothi Nadar, son of Arunachala Nadar, one land is mentioned as dry. They are showing it as wet and levying assessment accordingly. They have levied an assessment of Rs. 58 for 1.78 acres. In the settlement register it is classified as dry. They are collecting pakka wet assessment for it. It is not wet but only dry. As there is percolation of water dry crops cannot be raised. It does not get water from the zamindar's tank. There is percolation from the neighbouring wet lands. In the neighbourhood there are ayan villages. In Chettiarpatti village the assessment is only Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per acre.

The zamindar himself enjoys the properties of the temple. The affairs of the temple should be carried on. We petitioned that orders must be passed directing the allotment of all those incomes only for the temples. They have passed orders directing us to file a suit in the civil court in that connexion and stating that they cannot intervene in the matter.

They are afflicting us by distraining the produce during collection of kist. They distrain the produce during the harvesting season. During the harvesting season the assessment is not fixed. They make an estimate of the crops in the earing stage. If there is any deficiency afterwards they levy penal assessment. They take action on the ground that the assessment is in arrears. They compel us to pay the assessment levied by them somehow. They say that there is legal authority for it. If there is any such law, it should be amended so as to be favourable to the ryots. Even so much hardship is caused by this collection of tax. Arrangements should be made for collection just as is done in the Government villages. The lands stand as security for payment of kist. When such is the case much hardship is caused by the distraint of the produce.

In our zamin tanks and kanmois are not at all repaired. In their present state the water in the tanks will be sufficient only for one month or 1½ months. For the past four or five years no cultivation has been done by owners in the zamin. The lands have been entirely let on lease. The breaches in sluices, etc., are left unrepaired. They are not at all cared for. Further, fishing rights are auctioned. Those who take the lease even block the water and let it out. This makes cultivation difficult. When there



is need for water they block it and when there is no need for it they open the sluice in order to carry on fishing. As the people have the right of fishing favourable facilities have been procured by the suit filed in the year 1920. The magistrate will convict the party. But he will be acquitted in the appeal. (Files documents in connexion with this.) In the days of our ancestors, i.e., in the year 1850, in the days of the grand-fathers of the present zamin ryots, there were records to the effect that forests were grown and set apart under the term sowra forest by agreement for grazing cattle. They would be about 7,000 acres in extent. After the present zamindar assumed charge he is freely taking them for himself. In the year 1905 he introduced the practice of levying tax on cattle. A criminal case was filed. In the year 1906 a civil suit was also filed. It was pursued as far as the High Court and in the year 1919 it was decided in favour of the ryots. They asked the zamindar to permit them to enjoy the rights accordingly. He did not grant permission. According to that decree the coupe can be cut little by little in accordance with the coupe system. It has been decreed that it should be cut only in order that the forest may develop and not at will. The zamindar began to violate the decree and cut the trees as he pleased. In 1924 he began cutting the trees and within the year 1932 he had cut and sold away trees which were three-fourths grown. In the year 1932 we took proceedings in the munsif's court stating that he had cut the coupes in transgression of the injunction order. A commissioner was appointed and asked to report on the matter. He has submitted a report. I am filing that report. We filed a suit with four or five persons as plaintiffs. They have passed orders to the effect that trees should not be cut any further, that they should be cut only after obtaining the permission of the court and that a plan should be prepared for what there was at that time. He filed a criminal case against us under the Forest Act because we took action in the court in this manner. They brought charges of grazing cattle and cutting twigs, etc. In all the cases the defendants were acquitted. Once they brought the charge of cutting the coupes. Then they brought a charge of having gone to the upper hills. They would file a suit as soon as a magistrate was newly appointed. Recently they filed a case in a similar manner. But they came to their residence and after conducting an inquiry and inspecting the records acquitted them.

All the policemen are favourable to them. Winning over the policemen to their side they filed a case against us for security. Even in that case the defendants were acquitted. In the judgment delivered in that case it is stated that the policemen are favourable to the zamindar. (Files a number of records in respect of these.) First of all they filed a suit on the charge of grazing cattle in the forest. It was pursued as far as the High Court. It was decreed in it that we had the right of grazing cattle. (Files judgment copy.) There is a forest which has been decreed in our name. They take undue advantage of the Forest Act and make reports of some charge or other. The magistrate summons the party, examines him and at last acquits him. We are incurring much expense on account of this. They are causing us ever so much hardship and trouble in this manner. The Forest Act should therefore be repealed.

Witness No. 242.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Dorai Venkataraja, aged 55 years, son of Peria Alagaraju, Seithur, Ramnad district.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What are you going to say anew? A.—In the zamin, they collect contrary to the terms of the settlement patta. This settlement patta is the fasli patta. They collect from us contrary to the terms of the fasli patta. In the current fasli they are collecting more than this.

Q.—How do you know it? You should have a receipt. A.—It is in the Sub-Collector's office in connexion with a civil suit. (Witness filed settlement judgment.) I belonged to Rajapalayam originally. I live in Mettuppatti. I bought 50 cents of dry land and have built a house. A suit was filed in the district court by the zamin authorities that I should vacate the house. It was decided in my favour. The zamindar preferred an appeal in the High Court. Even there, it was decided in my favour.

Q.—Why did he ask you to vacate? A.—He said so because I have built on patta land and because there is a loss of 7 annas in the assessment.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—How much expenditure was incurred? A.—I spent Rs. 100 up to the hearing in the High Court. They filed the suit for an order to direct me to vacate as my house was built on patta land. It was decided in my favour.



Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Will you file the record? A.—The records are in the High Court. They are collecting very much from the tenants every year contrary to the terms of the settlement.

Q.—Have you filed the judgment? A.—I file it. (Files.) The harvest of fasli 1347 is in progress. They say that we should remove the paddy only after paying the assessment for the fasli 1347 and that they will not allow us to remove it otherwise. The paddy is in the threshing ground and is becoming spoilt.

Witness No. 243.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Arunachala Devar, aged 40 years, son of Muthuswami Devar, Seithur zamin, Ramnad district.

Patta has been granted without levying the assessment after surveying the zamin-dari under the settlement rate and after surveying the zamin by order of the Board. There is much hardship in regard to our assessment. We submitted a petition to the settlement office that the assessment should be set right according to the rate of assessment in respect of ayan lands. We submitted a petition that the rate of assessment in respect of wet lands should be fixed by the Board. We remitted Rs. 8,087 odd into the bank towards the settlement expenses and produced the receipt therefor. The zamin-dar submitted a petition to the Board that a complete settlement should be made. The Settlement officer issued an order that, excluding the sum of Rs. 8,000 odd, we should pay Rs. 1,362 more and that if we do not, we might have the sum already paid refunded to us. We paid Rs. 1,362. A settlement survey was made. In fixing the assessment, they levied the ayan rates in respect of dry lands only. In respect of wet lands, they did not apply the ayan rates but fixed the assessment at Rs. 19-6-0 without doing any settlement. They levied an unfavourable rate of assessment without levying the ayan rates and granted pattas after effecting a settlement. As the Board had powers of revision, we submitted a petition for reconsidering the question and for revising the unfavourable rates. The Board dismissed the petition and declined to suspend the pattas. The cist was exorbitant, parties came into existence and we gave it up unable to spend money. An unjust rate of assessment has been levied without the correct rate being levied. They settle the ayan rate in respect of dry lands but refuse to adopt the ayan rate in respect of wet lands. They fixed Rs. 19-6-0 for wet land because it was a zamin item. They are letting out the zamin private lands for Rs. 35. It is Rs. 10 per acre for them. When they let out the same land on land, they settle it at Rs. 20 per acre. We have to spend on manure. We paid the money because they said that, without a similar settlement, they would fix the rates as in the ayan lands. They fix a uniform rate without reference to the rate prevailing in the neighbourhood.

*Repairs.*—The tanks in the zamin are not being repaired. They should be repaired. The zamin authorities block the canals in which the water is flowing from the hills and cause us much hardship for want of water at the proper time for transplanting the seedlings. This results in loss. If we eagerly ask them when water begins to flow in the canals why they block the water which goes to the tank, 50 persons come and try to cause a riot. Mostly there will be police constables. After the lapse of a week or a month, there will be a heavy rain and then floods. Then we will try to attend to cultivation. When the water has filled the tank, they will block. Even though we cultivate, there is loss for want of water. Thus we experience trouble every year. Repairs to the tank should be completed and the settlement judgment should be closely scrutinized. The judgment of the Board of Revenue should be cancelled and a system similar to that in ayan villages should be introduced. There is much revenue.

*Fishing.*—They lease out the fishing rights in the entire tank for five years on a contract of more than Rs. 5,000 per annum, after receiving the money in advance. The lessee blocks the water even when the tank is half full. This happens even now. He sells the water to those who want it after receiving money therefor. I have spoken here the matters relating to settlement.

*Forest.*—There is some restriction in matters regarding the forest. I should speak of them in detail.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—You are conducting a suit for 30 years. How can you speak about it in one day?



Witness continues: An acre will yield only 4 kottais. In the present circumstances we are unable to pay the assessment. We have to borrow and pay it. The zamindar has cut the forest coupe worth 2 lakhs of rupees and has sold it. We filed a suit and it was decreed by the court that the zamindar should leave the forest to the tenants from the year 1935 and that he should not destroy it. The decree was favourable to us. Provision should be made in the decree to hand over possession of the property under the terms of the decree. The zamindar filed a suit. It was then compounded and the matter is still pending.

The Circle Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of Police have to present themselves at the bidding of the zamindar. The Sub-Inspector should come for confining the cattle in the pound. They impound 2,500 cows and bullocks and filed a suit. It was decided in our favour. If I go to cut wood according to the decree, the District Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Police and the Collector immediately appear there. They have even charged us with the offence of cutting the trees. But no conviction was made in any case.

Q.—Is the trouble very much? A.—It is unbearable. The zamindar enjoys the worth of 2 lakhs of rupees which should belong to us. If we ask him for any record, there are none. They have not yet begun to file any record in the sub-court. If they fail to act according to the terms of the decree, we are also ready to contravene the terms. They should be prevented from levying assessment until we enjoy our rights. If we do not get justice from you—the committee appointed by the Legislature—we have certainly to continue to suffer till eternity. They filed a suit for security against me and 24 others on the allegation that we had cut wood in the zamin forest. As we are enjoying them according to the decree, the Collector released us.

The state of the karnam and the village munsif needs no mention. They have to act as ordered by the zamindar. They depose evidence as they like on behalf of the zamindar.

Q.—Is it not a fact that the karnam and the village munsif are not subject to the zamindar but are Government officials? A.—They work only for the zamindar.

As the criminal cases instituted by the zamindar were of no avail, he issued a prohibitory order through the police so that we could not enter into the forest. Mr. Pulla Reddi cancelled that order saying that it was not proper.

Witness No. 244.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi, Vadmalaiikkurichi, Pavali zamin, Sattur taluk, Ramnad district.

They are collecting the assessment in our zamin without reference to the extent of the land. After fasli 1327, they are levying a higher assessment than was levied in fasli 1217. In fasli 1318, they collected 'kulakkarai' and 'melvettu' fees for cultivating a dry crop on wet land. In 1320, they collected assessment on waste land, water-rate and 'kulaivettu.'

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Have you submitted a petition to the Collector? A.—We are persons who are unable to pay the assessment and are unable to put up a fight. Even if we submit petition, they furnish an account that they spent 50 rupees under the head repairs.

The repairs done by the zamindar are not done properly. They should be done in the zamin through the Government just as they are done in the case of the Government tanks.

If we dig a well newly on wet lands, they levy an unjust tax of 129 panams for it.

Q.—Why do you not object if they levy the taxes as they like? A.—They do not pay any attention.

Q.—You can submit a petition to the Collector. Is it not? A.—We are unable to incur any expense. We are paying whatever levies they impose.



Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—I suppose you pay all the taxes they impose because you think that the cost of proceedings in court will be too much? A.—Yes. One kuli is equal to 92 cents. They are counting 60 cents as one kuli and are collecting three times the assessment. If we cultivate a summer crop, they collect three times the assessment for it.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How long is it now since 92 cents were reduced to 60 cents for a kuli? A.—It is now 10 years.

Q.—Did you not object? A.—No. Ninety per cent of the people are illiterate. They pay the assessment which the zamindar demands.

Q.—If water flows from a tank to dry lands which are next a wet land, they collect a water-rate of Rs. 13-15-7? A.—If we utilize for dry cultivation the water which is drained from the tank, they collect an exorbitant water-rate for it. The assessment on dry lands is three times the usual rate. The water does not remain in any tank. It flows away into the ayan lands or to the sea. If we bale out that water, they demand assessment. They say that the assessment for dry land in respect of that water is not sufficient and collect an assessment called 'kulavettu.' It is equivalent to the usual assessment. 'Kulavettu' itself is unknown to us and they refuse to tell us what it is.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—I suppose you do not know why they levy 'kulavettu'? A.—Yes. No engineer under the zamindar does any repair in the manner in which it should be done but does it so as to satisfy the account. It is not done for the benefit of the peasants.

Q.—What portion of the assessment is "kulavettu"? A.—They collect 87½ per cent in addition. They do not deepen the tank.

Q.—Do they maintain separate accounts in the zamin? A.—I do not know whether they maintain it. The assessment in respect of betels, sugarcane and plantain on wet lands is 169 panams. They have levied an assessment of 169 panams for the cultivation of paddy on a dry land which the rate is 20 panams.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What is the name of the zamindar? A.—C. T. Chitambaram Chettiyar of Melveedu and Kilveedu, Devakottai K. V. Chidambaram Chettiyar. Kulavettu was not levied for fasli 1301. They have levied it afterwards.

Q.—They levy all these because you pay all that they demanded? A.—Yes. The zamindar should provide facilities for grazing our cattle and for collecting wood, etc., for making agricultural implements. No grass land is allowed for grazing. It is all let out on lease and they cause much worry. They did not let out the grass lands formerly but are doing so only recently, for the last 10 or 15 years. They do not repair the tanks. If they repair them, they reserve them for their private use.

*Survey.*—Survey is quite necessary in our village. As a survey has not been made, a land, 10 acres in extent, when measured, will measure 8 acres. If we cultivate these 8 acres, we have to pay the assessment for 10 acres.

Q.—Do you have to pay it even if you cultivate only 8 acres though there are 10 acres in the account? A.—If they demand it, we have indeed to pay it. There are no drains for dry lands and they have no boundaries. These should be provided as in the case of the ayan dry lands.

*Transfer of patta.*—They do not sanction transfer of pattas. They collect a fee known as "nazir" for the transfer.

Q.—How much do they collect for a patta? A.—Rupees 2 for a kuli or Rs. 5 on the total assessment. If we pay this, they transfer the patta. If a person buys one acre out of 10 acres of land, they do not assess the person who had the 10 acres for tax for three faslis. They say that they will transfer the patta only if the person who buys the single acre of land is shown as being in arrears in respect of the 10 acres for three faslis. They have not transferred some pattas. No interest should be charged for the rent if it is collected from us within the end of the fasli concerned.

Q.—Do they charge interest? A.—They charge interest for the assessment in respect of this fasli even within the end of this fasli. This should not be done. Out of the poramboke lands in the village, the pattas in respect of those that are waste and are adjoining the lands of tenants should be transferred to the tenants after taking from them assessment for three faslis. If we ask them they refuse to do so, but ask us to pay 100 rupees. When we ask them to transfer the patta, keeping 2 cents out of 10 acres for the pannai and taking the rate for 2 cents as "nazir," they refuse to transfer it. They should transfer the pattas after taking the assessment for three years.



Witness No. 245.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. T. M. C. A. Sivanthiraja Nadar, Ettiyapuram Pannai,  
Sattur taluk, Ramnad district.

The people have the right to take silt from small ponds and tanks. But the zamin authorities have themselves granted pattas in respect of them to others. Those places are now under private possession. (Witness files the patta.) It is difficult to have a patta transferred.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Please state new points relating to the zamin. (Witness continues): The assessment and water-rate are exorbitant. The following rates are levied for a kottai containing 1 acre and 62 cents:—

									RS.	A.	P.
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	11	8
Plantain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	4	0
Chillies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	15	1
Ragi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15	8

(Witness files receipts and pattas.)

The pattas were not transferred from the fasli 1331. The extent of the land is shown in excess by the agents of the proprietor. No survey is made. A survey should be made so that the extent is not shown in excess.

Q.—Who is the proprietor? A.—Mr. Kailasa Thevar. If one person pays the assessment in respect of his portion of land of a joint patta and another person does not pay his portion in that patta, they take the land of the person who paid the assessment in auction and make it their pannai land. It is very difficult to have a patta transferred. The rate of assessment in respect of ayan lands should be introduced here.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you say that different rates of assessment should not be levied? A.—Yes. There must be only one assessment and it should be the ayan rate of assessment.

Q.—Will not the land deteriorate? A.—We used to apply manure.

Witness No. 246.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. R. S. Savaridass Udayar, son of Sananmuthu Udayar,  
Rayappanpatti, Erayakkanayakkanur, Madura district.

The rate of assessment in our zamin is 4 panams for a crop of grains, etc., 2 panams for a vegetable crop and 4 panams for ragi, millet and paddy. If the tenants dig a well from their own funds and cultivate a grain crop, the assessment is 6 panams. This should not be levied. As the rates were levied thus, we represented to the zamindar in person.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—If the land is manawari, what is the rate of assessment? A.—It is 4 panams or 2 panams. We represented that the levy of 6 panams was not just. He replied that it was his practice. We said that we would not receive the patta and filed a civil suit. We went up to the High Court and obtained a judgment that that assessment should not be levied.

Q.—Did you bring the judgment copy here? A.—It has been filed in the High Court in connexion with a suit regarding the water-rate. The judgment referred only to those who applied for it and not to the others. So, some others filed a suit a second time. The judgment was favourable to them also.

(Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja observed: "So you are always engaged on this.")

The tenants gave notice thrice. Then the zamindar said peacefully that we might make a survey and that if we did so, there would be no trouble. We said that we could not bear the cost of survey and that he should spend money and have the survey made. He himself deposited the necessary amount and had a survey made. Then they enhanced the assessment by 12½ per cent. It was wrong. The assessment should be according to the old peshkash rate. By the above arrangement the zamindar gets a greater amount of assessment. We preferred an appeal to the Board of Revenue that it was wrong. They made a resettlement in 1919 and the Board issued an order that one-ninth of the total assessment should be reduced. The zamindar submitted a petition for revision to the



High Court saying that the above order was not right. The suit is still proceeding just like the Vizagapatam district zamindari case in the Privy Council. The High Court held the suit in abeyance pending the decision in the case of the other. As soon as the law report of the Privy Council was published, the High Court decided the suit in favour of the tenants.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—What revenue will the zamindar get from you? A.—Rupees 30,000. It is now 4 or 5 years since this settlement was made in the High Court. They are still collecting the old rate of assessment.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What will you do if they refuse to levy the revised rates? A.—We were engaged on this court business from 1906 to 1934. If we go to court another time it will be troublesome. Hence we are proceeding with the suit.

Q.—Have you not a copy of the judgment? A.—We have given it to Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar for being filed in the High Court in connexion with a suit regarding water-rate. We shall obtain it and file it. As paddy is a grain crop, the assessment was fixed as 4 panams. If it is a garden land, sometimes water may sprout out from an artisan well or water in the adjoining tanks may rise and flow. If we cultivate paddy from the spring water, they say that a water-rate should be levied above the assessment rate of 6 panams and levy a water-rate of Rs. 46 on a land for which the assessment is Rs. 1-15-0.

Q.—Was a survey made? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do they maintain a register of survey? A.—They have not yet got it. This settlement was made in the old days. The zamindar and we came to the understanding that the cost of survey should be his. Now the zamindar has not yet obtained the record of settlement from the Government. It is with the Settlement Officer. It is not known why it is with him. They have collected two years ago about five thousand rupees and odd from the farmers at some nominal rate saying that the farmers should bear the cost of survey.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Was this collection ordered by the zamindar or by the Government? A.—I do not know whether it was ordered by the Government or by the zamindar.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How much have you paid? A.—We have paid the zamindar more than 1,000 rupees.

Q.—Have you a receipt for the payment? A.—We have it but I have not brought it.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja told the witness : “ Please produce it later.”

Witness continues : If there are trees on the patta lands of the tenants, they belong to the tenants. But the zamin authorities say that the trees belong to them. When we were children, they have been filing several suits. Once a farmer dug a well and planted a margosa tree near it. As the margosa leaves fell into the well and the drinking water was spoilt, he cut down the tree. They filed a case against him in a Criminal Court for theft. He contended that he cut the tree which he planted. The Magistrate held that it was not criminal if the owner cut the tree which he planted and dismissed the case.

Q.—Have you brought the record? A.—No. I have sent to Madras. The zamindar filed a suit that the trees on patta lands and gardens belonged to him and that a permit should be obtained from him for enjoying the yield from the trees or for cutting them. We took up the case regarding the margosa tree to the High Court. There it was decided that the trees on the patta lands of the tenants belonged to them.

Q.—Have you a copy of that judgment. A.—We shall obtain and give it.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja told the witness : “ You should obtain the record and send it.”

Witness continues : Formerly we had the right to collect wood for agricultural implements, grass, and timber from the hill. When in 1895, Mahalinga Thevar went to cut ‘ thottu ’ for making a fence, the persons in charge of the forest prevented him from cutting it and filed a suit in the Magistrate’s court that the trees were stolen. The suit was taken up in the Sessions Court where Mr. Moberly held that it was not a criminal offence if the zamin tenants entered the zamin forest and passed a judgment accordingly. While so, the zamin people have created records in the zamin in course of time that for a long time the zamin tenants had obtained licences in their own names and in the names of their servants for cutting wood in the forest for agricultural implements and for fuel. Finally they have leased out the hill to Sillandi Thevar. We objected to this and continued to cut trees as usual. They filed a criminal suit in the



court of the Deputy Collector, Usilampatti, and filed those licences. The Deputy Collector made an enquiry and rejected the suit saying that it was a civil suit. They then filed it in the civil court. We filed our depositions. But it was decided that as it was noted in the zamin records that we had been taking licences for a long time, we must obtain a licence. We preferred an appeal to the High Court. They also believed these licences, decided that, as they had records in respect of everything except grazing our cattle, we had only the right for grazing our cattle and that we should obtain licences in respect of other matters.

Now there is a small hill for grazing cattle. There are 18 villages and all the people have cattle. They have received the rent in respect of grassy areas in the hill-tracts and have let them out for cotton cultivation. There is no hill for grazing. Only the smooth rock is left. The grazing lands have all gone. It is said that pattas have been granted in respect of the pasture lands in the names of those who are the favourites of the zamindar. The hill is in this condition. They have spoilt the facility for grazing our cattle. It should be set right with reference to the record of survey.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Have they granted benami pattas in respect of the hill to their favourites? A.—What he is going to do can be known only in the future. It is said that they have granted pattas to some farmers of ayan villages and female labourers. The zamindar takes the whole of the income. The rate per acre at which he collects the assessment can be known only in the future.

(‘ While the witness was deposing, the following witness was called in and examined.’)

**Witness No. 247.**

**Madura.**

**25th February 1938.**

**Oral evidence of Mr. Parimanam, son of Malaiyandi Pillai, Anamalaipatti.**

Patta should be granted to the zamin tenants in respect of the forests on the zamin hill after collecting from them the necessary assessment for cultivating coffee and cardamum. The forest should not be let to other tenants for cultivating paddy or cardamum or coffee.

**Witness No. 246 (Recalled)—**

(Mr. Savaridas Udayar again resumed his evidence.)

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Will it not be good if there is statutory ‘ provision for the purchase of other men’s rights ’? Will they definitely purchase the melvaram right if there is statutory provision for doing so? A.—The tenants do not have the means for it. We have patta in respect of 100 acres of coffee plantation in the name of our family. Fifty persons are maintaining it and they cultivate it on their respective accounts. While so cultivating, sometimes all of them are not able to pay the rent. Some fail to pay it. As the pattas have not been transferred, they collect it from the pattadars.

A survey was made. We submitted a petition that the hill-tracts also should be surveyed. The zamindar objected to this. The Government replied that they would make the survey if we deposited Rs. 50 towards the cost of the survey. We paid Rs. 50. When they applied for the permission of the zamindar, he refused. We did not take a refund of the amount and it is still there.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Who made the collection? Is it the village officer? A.—The village munsif and the karnam of our village made the collection.

Q.—‘ Have they granted receipts? ’ A.—They have.

Q.—‘ Is it Government receipt or zamindar receipt? ’ A.—They have given a white receipt and the headman has signed it.

Q.—Do you know that the Government themselves will collect money directly for the survey stones? A.—I do not know.

**Witness No. 248.**

**Madura.**

**25th February 1938.**

**Oral evidence of Mr. R. Narasingaperumal Nayudu, son of M. Rangaswami Nayudu, Secretary, Ryots’ Association, Mudukulattur taluk, Ramnad district.**

There is no perennial river in the Ramnad estate. Therefore it is very difficult to obtain sufficient water for the lands in the estate. There are the Kunder and the Vaigai rivers. Water does not flow in the canals at the proper season. We, the ryots,



pay the tax to the Government not directly but through the zamindar. We request that water should be supplied to us in the same manner as it is supplied to the people in the ryotwari villages.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do you suggest that a dam should be constructed? A.—Yes. We want sufficient water. We have now to wait for the rain. It does not fall at the proper season. This is a grave defect. There are no facilities in the kanmois. All the kanmois remain without any repairs being done for the last 25 to 100 years. Such kanmois do not have sluices or shutters. The lands which depend on the kanmois for irrigation have deteriorated and only a dry cultivation can be made on such wet lands. It is not possible to carry on a wet cultivation.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—What is the assessment? A.—They levy special rates of varam. There are no shutters in the sluices of kanmois. Some kanmois are in a state of disrepair. The sluices are broken. While the condition is like this it cannot be said definitely how much the ryot has. It cannot be found how many acres of the lands in the Ramnad estate are wet and how many are dry.

The threshing floor in respect of wet lands—118½ cents—1.98 acres—one piece of dry land. But actually the land will be only 50 cents in extent, while the tenant will pay tax in respect of 118½ cents. He will be cultivating only 18 cents. Paddy is cultivated on the varam system. We have to pay a land-cess in respect of the land in which paddy can be cultivated, in addition to paying the rent. This causes hardship.

It is possible for another ryot to attach my land to his as a survey has not been made. Litigation arises. It means expense. Hence a survey settlement should be made.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Has a portion been surveyed? A.—Kakkur which is adjoining the Travancore State has been surveyed. Some of the devasthanam villages have been surveyed. The ryots will be thinking that there will be water in the kanmoi sufficient for 200 kalaviraiyadis, that further water will flow in and that they can carry on cultivation and obtain profit and will sow the seeds. There will not be sufficient water for transplantation of the seedlings. If water stagnates in the kanmois, they will break and cultivation cannot be proceeded with. There are many defects so far as the kanmois are concerned.

Q.—Was a settlement made for the ryots after the Court of Wards took charge? A.—It retrenched some of the estate servants. It reduced their pay and made a settlement. One or two kanmois have been repaired. They have plastered over the place where the sluice had broken.

Q.—Are they attending them now more than what they were doing formerly? A.—They have begun one or two things. There are no grazing fields for the cattle. In certain places there is a forest. There is a Government pound and a pound which belongs to the zamin for confining the cattle which go to those places. The forester will confine the cattle there. They levy a penal tax varying from 2 annas to 4 annas per animal. The cattle perish. There is no veterinary hospital and there is no help for the cattle. In this state, we have to sow seeds in the sowing field and incur a large expenditure according to the cost of cultivation per acre.

(Witness read from the printed memorandum submitted by him the particulars regarding the cost of cultivation and the income derived from it.)

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—After paying the cost you get Rs. 22. You spend Rs. 75. You lose Rs. 52? A.—Yes.

Q.—How much do you lose in respect of wet lands? A.—About 4 acres.

Q.—At that rate you are losing Rs. 200 every year? A.—This year I have done like this.

Q.—You have got 4 acres. You are losing Rs. 200? A.—We are not accustomed to do that.

Q.—Please give me the actual cost? A.—Rs. 45.

Q.—What do you get? A.—I shall get Rs. 45 without paying melvaram. There will be a loss of Rs. 5. If I pay one-half as melvaram, that will also be a loss. I have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 42-8-0 in applying green manure to the sowing field of my lands. In respect of manuring done last year, I have applied manure so that it may be sufficient for another year. This year we applied even more. We may get about 40 marakals more. There is no income commensurate with the expense.

Q.—‘So you say you are losing?’ A.—Yes.

Q.—When did you get this land? A.—It is ancestral property. Hereditary.



Q.—Do you calculate and say that the amount is Rs. 70 if a new crop is raised? A.—It happens like this if we raise a new crop and apply much manure. If we cultivate paddy we have to pay varam and if we cultivate any other crop we have to pay it in cash.

Q.—Are you speaking of paddy? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you pay one-half of your income as varam? A.—Yes.

Q.—While it is so, how do you say that there is loss? A.—There is no income for the money spent.

Q.—When there is a loss, you can carry on agriculture, spending Rs. 20 or Rs. 30. Why should you spend Rs. 50? A.—We did it as an experiment. We tested what the yield would be if more manure was applied. It will not ordinarily exceed Rs. 40.

Ordinarily this pertains to wet lands. The rate for dry land ranges from 8 annas to Rs. 2. There are two tarams 'nanjai taram' and 'punjai taram.' Even the surplus water in wet lands that goes down, is not fit for the use of the ryots. Even if the rain water enters the dry lands, they collect a tax called 'charasari.' If we construct 'varappus' in dry lands during rainy season, they collect a tax called 'varappukatti charasari.'

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Why can't you file the patta for it if you have got?

A.—There are many documents in support of it. It is stated in the patta given in 1868 that we can cultivate 'velleri' and 'pagal' in the 'kanmai munai mal.' For each kurukkams, they collect 8 annas for 'velleri' and 12 annas for 'pagal.'

Q.—Have you brought that patta here?

A.—It is filed in the court. I will produce it later.

They demand tax for it. They demand also 'charasari.' We will have to call the Division Inspector, karnam and the measurement people. Then we will have to carry the harvested crop which is to be valued, to the karnam's house. Then to obtain a receipt, we must get the signature of the headman. Then we must get the receipt from the Revenue Inspector. It will be difficult for the Adi-Dravidas to get a receipt even within a period of a week. The 'oppadi kumastha' will give the oral order at 8 o'clock in the morning. They will order that it must be harvested in the course of the night. After obtaining the signature, they will not give the receipt to us. We would have employed people with the idea of finishing the harvest work on a particular day. They will employ irresponsible servants. They are not paid servants. They will exercise great authority. If the harvested produce has been brought to the 'kalam' by 6 p.m., those servants will go away leaving the produce there. Ours is the responsibility. He is to be held responsible, if any robber robs of the produce in the night. We have to pay what is called 'kothupadi' to the karnam and the headman. Since there are so many drawbacks, this 'varam' system must be abolished. The tax must be levied on these lines. The tax must be equal to the value of one-sixth of the produce. Pattas must be given to the ryots before the 30th of June according to law. But they would issue pattas only in August or September with an ante-date in the patta. For this we must pay 4 annas to the karnam. If we refuse to pay, they will inform that they have refused to tender it. Even if I own and cultivate a land, they never transfer pattas for generations. Secondly, if I purchase a land in auction, enjoy it and possess receipts for it, they never transfer the patta for that land. Pattas are not transferred for lands, the owner of which is dead and which is in the enjoyment of his grandson for the last 20 years. For transfer of pattas, we must bribe them.

Q.—How does corruption prevail now?

A.—It is in the same old condition. No improvement has been effected even during the Court of Wards. Even if we send petitions to the Sub-Registrar's office, the petitions are transferred to the samasthanam. The pattas remain untransferred.

Q.—Perhaps they might not have transferred the patta for arrears of rent?

A.—I had a document registered some seven or eight months back. Still the patta is not transferred. I am still paying the rent. The zamin staff are feared and dreaded by the ryots. The ryots are in dread of the staff, from the 'talaiyari' to the Estate Manager. They will bring the ryots into trouble in some way or other. They will demand the 'charasari' tax from the ryots, on the ground that the 'nanjai' water is used for 'punjai.' The fact of a land being sold in auction by the court and of its having been absorbed in the 'samasthanam' will be known only in the next year when the patta of that land will not be forthcoming. Hence the hereditary right of the karnams must be abolished.



If we build a house in dry or wet lands, they demand the tax 'charaseri.' (He filed an exhibit.) If we build a house in a 'thidal' they demand 'nasar.' If we build in 'nanjai' or 'punjai' lands, we have to pay 25 years' 'charaseri.' If paddy is cultivated, we must pay Rs. 15 for 25 years. Along with that, we must pay land revenue-cess. In some cases, we have to pay 'charaseri' also.

Q.—You are taxed only for that area of land which is occupied by your house?

A.—Yes.

In Mudukulattur lands are acquired for building houses for the Harijans. But now the samasthanam stands in the way. On that account, the Harijans suffer. It is the Government that acquire lands.

Q.—The samasthanam might have obtained that cost. Hence nobody can do any thing?

A.—It is the Government that must do this.

There are officers who hold 'kavul', 'inam' and 'jivitham' lands and they cause trouble to the ryots. Suppose I serve this year. Next year they can drive me, if they so desire. We must also render services to them. They collect tax for trees. There is a record for it.

Q.—Do they collect now only? Or did that custom prevail long before?

A.—They are collecting it for a long time. There are trees which are included in the patta. There are very many literate and able youths in our samasthanam. Without giving employment to them, they take into service people from other districts.

Q.—Did it happen even after the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—The evil increased during the time of the Court of Wards. Literate young men in the samasthanam suffer for want of employment. Secondly the officers who are recruited from the outside districts do not know the customs and practices obtaining in the samasthanam.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—If you are given official jobs, how will the ryots cultivate?

A.—Not all are literate. The illiterate will look after agriculture. Further there is the language difficulty. For example, we are not able to properly represent our grievances to the Manager. He requires an interpreter.

Q.—Does it involve greater expenditure if persons from foreign parts are appointed?

A.—According to W. R. Sathianadhan's report, they have paid only Rs. 3 lakhs as peshkash out of Rs. 11 lakhs. The surplus amounts to Rs. 8 lakhs. Now the administration expenses have doubled. Now after the advent of the Court of Wards, the expenses have gone up to Rs. 60,000. According to the agreement of 1812, Rs. 45,00,000 were fixed; Rs. 3 lakhs were paid to the Government as peshkash and the remaining sum was utilized for the zamin expenses. The present officials cause great hardships to the ryots.

A breach occurred in the Maranthai village. We sent petitions asking for the closing of the breach. When an attempt was made to close the breach with police 'bandobust,' a samasthanam servant was murdered. There are breaches as the western and eastern side and they are not yet repaired. When Mr. Ramamurthi was Collector in that year, he fixed the following rates: 10 annas for one 'veraiadi' of nanja land and 8 annas for one 'kurukkam' of punjai lands. But during the time of Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, they said they would make the necessary repairs and asked us to pay Rs. 3-8-0 as a special rent. Fully believing in his statement, we sold our seeds and paid the rent. But the promise of the Estate Collector was not fulfilled.

Q.—Is it a written promise?

A.—No. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar was the Estate Collector then.

This year the crops have failed. We paid Rs. 3-8-0 rent and asked for the carrying out of repairs. But they are indifferent. We ask for the redress of our grievances. They said that after the passing of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act, the old arrears would be written off. Now they have included the arrears as 'suit amount' against the provisions of the said Act. For arrears due for fasli 1345, they destrain the properties. These troubles will be evaded, if the Bill is passed into Act soon.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Pray that the Bill may be soon passed into an Act?

A.—We will do so.

To clear the existing debts, the Government must give to the people long-term loans for 40 years at a low rate of interest.



The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What about the Co-operative Society?

A.—It is working. But it is not able to give long-term loans. They give short-period loans, viz., for four or five years. The interest is 6 per cent. Government can give loan at 3 per cent. That is why we ask loans from the Government. The ryots are carrying on agriculture in the old fashioned way.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—You have made new experiments in that sphere?

A.—That is why we want new life to be given to agriculture. Agricultural 'pan-nais' must be formed. The zamindari system must be reformed as the model of the ryotwari system. Out of ten years, we will have successful crops only in two years. Hence benevolent schemes must be formulated and good done to the people.

Q.—You have told that there are Government pounds and zamin pounds. Do they collect money in Government pounds?

A.—They will term some plots of land to be a 'forest.' They will impound the cattle. The foresters will receive the money and will not give receipts for it. It is one of the ordinary sources of income.

Q.—They collect money in zamin pounds. Is that money a bribery for the officers or is it included in the income of the estate?

A.—I do not know that. There is a tax called grass land tax. They give receipt for it. I do not know what do they do with the money which they get by intimidation.

Q.—Have you told the zamindar that they intimidate you?

A.—We have reported the matter to the Tahsildar. We don't see the zamindar.

Q.—The Tahsildar knows the affair. But does he not take action upon it?

A.—Yes. In spite of his knowledge of the fact, he does not take steps to bring them to book.

Q.—What are the difficulties which the ryots experience in the estate?

A.—If we cultivate in 'nanjai tharam' they may demand Rs. 2-13-9 as rent. Now in the estate, they demand equal 'varam.' They have converted the 'teervai' land into 'varam' land.

Q.—Have they abolished the 'teervai' system and made it as 'varam' system?

A.—They have made them into equal 'varam' pattas.

Q.—How many years before?

A.—Some two or three years back, when in the Court of Wards.

Q.—Did you send any complaint about that?

A.—We have sent so many complaints.

Q.—Do you want the tanks to be under the Government control?

A.—The 'maramat work' must be under the control of the Government and must be executed by it. The expenses must be recovered from the zamindar.

Q.—Who must collect the rent?

A.—We have passed a resolution in the Zamindars' Conference. We do not like the idea of the Government officials collecting the rent.

Q.—What harm is there?

A.—We cannot prove it with the help of records. But we want the 'varam' system to be abolished.

Q.—But the ryots in Sivaganga zamin want the 'varam' system. What about that?

A.—You must strike an average of the last 30 years and you must see to it that we do not incur any losses. The samasthanam itself must carry out the survey work.

Q.—Do they collect 'mahimai'?

A.—Yes. But they do not collect it separately. They collect it along with the tax.

Q.—Are there separate accounts for that?

A.—Yes. There is a chatram. But it is now locked up.

Q.—For whom is the charity intended?

A.—For travellers who go to the chatram.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—The chatram was originally intended for the benefit of travellers who would go to Rameswaram. Is it not so?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are there no schools and veterinary hospitals, etc.?

A.—There is a Ramnad High School. There are no hospital. In the school, they collect fees. No other conveniences are afforded.



The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—When did they collect pound-tax? Any authority?

A.—We appointed a special committee from the Mudukulattur Taluk Sangam to represent these matters before the Enquiry Committee when it came here. Then the ryots represented their grievances. They collect illegal poundage even now in the village of Periakulam. But no receipts are given.

Q.—Even under the management of the Court of Wards, the servants are collecting the illegal tax?

A.—Yes. They are after all the old persons.

Q.—Did you report in time about the illegal collection to the Estate Collector?

A.—We did not report the matter to the Estate Collector.

Q.—I suppose you are the Secretary of the Mudukulattur Taluk Ryots' Association?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How long?

A.—Only some two months ago.

Q.—You went round all the villages and secured these informations?

A.—We appointed a committee consisting of five persons. That committee toured the villages and made enquiries. In 100 villages there are more than 33 groups. I am one of the committee members.

Q.—You got all this information by visiting all the villages?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the value of the land?

A.—Rs. 300, Rs. 400, Rs. 500 for dry lands. Rs. 200, Rs. 250 per acre 'kurukkam.'

Q.—Are there any ryots who lease out their lands for cultivation?

A.—Some people lease out their lands.

Q.—What does the ryot get?

A.—For 1 acre and 80 cents he gets 30 to 35 measures. The value of  $\frac{1}{2}$  kalam is Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.

Q.—What does the ryot get from his under-tenant?

A.—Only four rupees worth of rent.

Q.—Do the lessees pay in cash or kind?

A.—In kind. They get 'pathaku' quantity grain, that is, in average 20 to 22 measures.

Q.—What is the cost?

A.—It will be Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-12-0.

Q.—Is the lease amount only Rs. 1-12-0?

A.—They pay only so much.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Is it including the rent or excluding the rent?

A.—Excluding the rent.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Who pays the rent to the zamindar, the pattadar or the lessee?

A.—It is the pattadar.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—How much will you get from the under-tenant?

A.—Rs. 2.

Q.—You will pay Rs. 20 to the zamindar?

A.—Yes.

The pattadar leases out one acre of land. The under-tenant pays the 'melvaram' to the zamindar. Out of the 'kudivaram' he pays Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 to the tenant.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—So the under-tenant pays the zamindar and then pays the tenant, Rs. 1-8-0?

A.—The lessee pays what is due to the zamindar and to the ryot.

Q.—Is there any lease-deed?

A.—At present they are not available. If you desire, I will produce them later.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Can we give the right of 'kudivaram' to the under-tenant who has cultivated a land for a long time?

A.—It can be given only in the inam lands.

Q.—Suppose there is a pattadar. He never cultivates his land himself. He gets Rs. 1-12-0. Can we give the right of possession to that land to his under-tenant?

A.—It is but just that after reserving sufficient extent of land for the owner, some thing must be given to his under-tenants out of the remaining portion.



Q.—How much extent of land can we reserve for a pattadar?

A.—The possession of land is indeed troublesome.

Q.—Then why do you possess lands at all?

A.—If my debts are cleared, I am prepared to give up my lands.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are there rich lessees?

A.—There are. They lease out 200 and 300 acres of land. Sometimes they themselves cultivate the lands.

Q.—They lease out somewhat less to the under-tenant. In such cases do you want for the present coolies who till the soil occupancy rights?

A.—If he has the “melvaram” rights, the occupancy right may be given to him.

Q.—Do you want any law to be passed embodying this idea?

A.—He must give something out of the income. Since he has only the “kudivaram” rights, he is not prepared to transfer that right to him.

Q.—You agree that a portion must be paid out of the income. Do you want any law to be enacted regarding that? Or do you think that agreements will suffice?

A.—These can be done by mutual goodwill. No law need be enacted for this.

Q.—Do the people who lease out lands demand the right to ask their under-tenants to get out at any time?

A.—I want that right. There must be the right to ask the under-tenants to get out at will. Such a right of displacing them must be vested in the village panchayat officers. (Laughter.)

Witness No. 249.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. M. Muthirulandi Servai, aged 41 years, son of Vellasami Servai, Patta 87, Kuriyur village, Ramnad zamin.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—What's the matter? Have you got anything more to say?

A.—It takes 45 rupees and 8 annas to cultivate the lands. In the Ramanadhapuram taluk—

	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Nathangal, etc. ...	5	8	0	Contingency ...	3	10	0
Ploughing ...	25	8	0	Loss ...	17	0	0

Other than “kanganam” we have to give “mamul” to the karnam, headman, “talaiyari” and vetti. When we have to divide the “varam” one big bundle of hay will be taken up for lighting purposes. It will cost Rs. 3-10-0. The hay, that we give for lighting purposes, is sheer waste. They would not bring any lights with them. We have to engage coolies to harvest the crops and to carry them to the “kalam,” which will come up to 5 rupees. The land that is left to us for “varam” is taxed Re. 1-4-0.

Q.—Where then lies the necessity for cash?

A.—First of all it came as tax. Some 150 years before, the tax was 10 annas. Afterwards to repair the “kanmoi” they take the varam and tax for the land.

Q.—Do they collect it at the same time, when they divide the “varam”?

A.—All these expenditures will be met at the spot, where our crops are harvested. Two annas from everybody will be collected to meet the tax. Even if there is any balance that must be remitted by the headman, it will be attached to this land. (He filed a chit here.) We may clear off the debts. What others have to pay will be also added to this. They will have recourse to this practice, when they are in the same patta. In spite of the fact there is one patta number for many persons, if one man goes to the karnam and asks for the kanganam permit, the karnam will add the balance of his friends to those who are not on good terms with him and will suck the money from the latter. He will turn a deaf ear to our protestations. We will have to clear off the balance of the karnam's friends. We get Rs. 28 worth of income from this.

After having given the “varam,” the profit will be Rs. 45-8-0, if we work for others. If we toil in our lands our profits will amount to Rs. 28-8-0. This is only left to us for hay and paddy. Hence there is loss in coolie to us.

Q.—Is this practice prevalent in all the lands of your people?

A.—Yes. It is the same practice. Our condition has become hopeless. We have sold our ladies' jewels, we have pledged our household things. In spite of this fact, we are not prepared to give up the lands. It is because of this you hear of fights and



murders. We have not even a pie with us. If my brother and myself were to partition to-day, and if I am to plant coconut trees in the eastern side of it, a tax of 50 rupees will be levied on me. In the lands, in which there are no coconut trees, a tax of 10 annas will be imposed on my brother. They have divided the lands into six kinds as "nanjai," "nanjaitharam punja"—these are lands fit for cultivation, but their level is high; "Vanpayirkuli"—where chillies, brinjals and other eatables are planted; "ragai punjai"—what is in the inner side of the tank is punjai in the kulam; "thidakal" is what is on the outer side of the tank; where cholam is harvested is "ragai." Before lands were measured according to Muthurappai's foot measure. But now the present karnam's foot measure is the standard measure.

If the nanjai is 22-1/2 feet, it will be 22-1/2 "jathi adi."

If the punjai is 16-1/2 feet, it will be 12-3/8 "jathi adi."

If the Vanpayirkuli punjai 8-1/8 feet, it will be 8-1/8 "jathi adi."

If a short man happens to be karnam, he will measure one and quarter for one "virai adi."

Q.—So do you mean to say that the karnams must be tall people?

A.—Yes. Because of it lands are not strictly measured. If even what the karnam has measured, happens to be less, we will have to pay more according to the karnam's measurement.

Q.—How will the karnams put the measurements in the pattas?

A.—There will be two columns as "virai adi" and as "sagubadi virai adi." The karnams will say that people have more lands in their possession, if they are not on good terms with him. Hence we will have to be perpetual slaves to the karnam. When measurement is made, we will have to pay to the karnam 1 share out of 112 shares. Out of the balance "varam" is divided. He is not the real owner of  $\frac{3}{4}$  kuli out of 400 kulis. But he will take two or three marakals of paddy for his own self. The servants of the samasthanam will make a mark on the paddy with dung called as "samasthana kuri." They will carry paddy from where we harvested to the State granary. There will be some damage by this transportation and we will have to bear up this heavy damage. We cannot report to the higher officers about this matter.

Q.—Why not?

A.—They will make matters worse. If we plant coconut trees in the eastern side, it will be charged at 10 annas rate. If my brother plants "keppai" in 90 cents, that rate also be 10 annas. We can plant some 400 coconut trees. The rate will vary with villages and taluks. In Ramanadhapuram it is 50 rupees.

Q.—Have you brought any receipt for it?

A.—No. I brought 3 rupees with me. It is not enough to take me back home. In the Chikkal taluk the rate per tree is As. 5-4; in Ramanadhapuram it is As. 2; in other taluks it is As. 1-3. So the conclusion is that the yield will differ with different taluks.

Q.—Will they count the trees yearly?

A.—No. But they collect the tax after five years.

Q.—If a tree gets withered in the next year, will they deduct from the amount the tax of that tree?

A.—If we are to ask for deduction we have to spend 10 to 50 rupees. We cannot spend on Inspector's office, Taluk office and Huzur office. If we have got anything to eat we will eat; or we will remain quiet.

Q.—Will they count the trees only afterwards?

A.—They count the trees correctly first and enter it into the account.

Q.—Did not any good result come, if you lodge a petition to the effect that some trees are withered?

A.—We have submitted many petitions. So far no good result has come out of it.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Have you brought with you any copy of the petitions you have so filed?

A.—No. If there is "Vanpayirkuli" in a "punjai" the rate will be 10 annas. If an agricultural tenant makes preparations for digging a well, they will extract from him, all which he will manage to get out of his well. For tobacco the tax will be 22 rupees for 90 cents and if it is plantain, it will be 10½ rupees. Years before it was only 10 annas for the same extent of land.

Q.—When was this tax raised?

A.—Ten or twenty years before. Before this, rate was same. Increased tax was levied for punjai lands only on six villages which did not pay heed to their words. A rate



of Rs. 3-2-0 is levied on Aruppukottai, Chinna Pulyampatti, Peria Pulyampatti, Kancharanaickanpatti, Attipatti and Sukkilnatham. In other villages there is reduced tax. The rate for karisal is Re. 1-2-0; for sevval Re. 1; for veppal As. 8, for pottal As. 10, for sandy places As. 6 and for vandal As. 12. There is now water-tax, if you dig a well and cultivate chillies, plantains and brinjals.

Q.—Is the tax same in all the taluks?

A.—No. It differs with taluks.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—For how many years is increased tax levied on tobacco?

A.—Fifteen years. In the High Court judgment, we were successful. The judgment went that tax should not be levied. Afterwards we withdrew according to a compromise.

Q.—Was the tax reduced according to the compromise?

A.—No, we accepted their verdict.

Q.—Is this a compromise then?

A.—What else to do? The "punjai" lands in Rajasingamangalam are called as "vivesthai punjai." In Kuriyur, where I have got lands, it is called as "vivasthai-theeradha punjai." It is not included in the patta. They say they have not decided as to include them whether in the nanjai lands or in the punjai lands. In the patta you will find written "*K punjai*." If the cultivators enquire into the meaning of it, they will reply that it refers to "*karisal punjai*." After some years elapse, they will change it into "*kanakkupillai punjai*." We enquired as to the meaning of our punjai lands, fearing lest our punjai lands in Kuriyur should share the same fate. That is why we have not so far received a patta. The rate of tax for ragai punjai is 10 annas. (He filed a patta as exhibit.) We consider "Vivasthaitheeradha punjai" as "Vinaitheeradha punjai." They say that a compromise may be effected, if we give them a rate of 5 rupees.

Q.—What is the reason for it?

A.—They say that is because paddy is cultivated on punjai lands.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Is not the varam yet paid?

A.—No.

Q.—Is there sufficient water-supply?

A.—Vaigai does not irrigate our lands. We depend upon the rains. They will claim the "kanmoi" theirs and levy a water-tax if we use them. Regarding "punjai" lands, there is a tax called "charasaritheervai" in Kuriyur. If the next land is also a "punjai" it will be said that varam may be given two or three years after. Even after three years we will have to suffer. Now even the "kanmoi" and the "punjai" are in danger. They have included them also. They have filed a suit. In 1932 we withdrew from this case. To get the water-supply we have to give two "kampus" to the samasthanam. According to the compromise patta will be given for the rest. "Since in the last year you have encroached upon our rights in the konmoi, you or agent must answer within a week's time, failing which action will be taken against you," we have got a notice like this now.

Q.—Do you like to do away with the varam system and introduce tax instead?

A.—Yes. This is Ramanad's "jama" account. They have allotted 5 lakhs of rupees as income from "jama" and 4 lakhs from the kist. But now there are records to prove that the income is 16 lakhs of rupees.

Q.—Where did you find that record?

A.—I found it in a copy given to a big cultivator from the Budget Committee.

Q.—Is it found in it that 1 lakh of rupees is the profit?

A.—In items 1 to 55 in pages 280 to 284 of the istimrar of Ramnad Estate Manual you find the State income as Rs. 8,84,120-12-4. Income from "nanjai" Rs. 3,93,118-7-5. We ask for reduction in punjai tax.

*Income from.*

	RS.	A.	P.
In the punja high tax .. .. .	18,750	0	0

*Rent from.*

7th item—Punja Vanpayirkuli .. .. .	5,566	3	0
11th item—Income from tree-tax .. .. .	12,672	3	0
17th item—Grass-tax .. .. .	3,040	8	0
20th item—Fuel-tax .. .. .	962	10	8
30th item—Potter's tax .. .. .	1	4	0



This whole amount of Rs. 4,36,730-5-8 must be deducted. They collect Rs. 4,47,390-6-8 from other items. If they collect the remaining Rs. 53,000 it will come up to Rs. 5 lakhs they will talley. You find in pages 152, 172, 175, 179, 187 and 199 of that book 49,877 acres are cultivable "nanjai" lands from which Rs. 50,000 can be collected. Adding the "punjai" lands it will go up to 75,000 acres. Dividing this cultivable lands, if you levy a tax of 1 rupee for "nanjai" the incidence of tax will be just. We must be given reduction when the "nanjai" tax is collected. There had been troubles after this estate had come under the Court of Wards. They are English-knowing people. They come to the "kalams." They do not grasp what we speak.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—I hope they are Tamils?

A.—Yes. But they will not speak in Tamil.

Q.—Do you see the Collector?

A.—We cannot see him. We will spoil his name! If we see the superior officers their subordinate will get discontented. The karnams and headmen collect lakhs of rupees. They are paid Rs. 11,806-10-9. This sum is paid from the zamindari to the sirkar. The Samasthanam requires Rs. 2,20,000 to pay another set of officers, who distribute the pay to the karnams and headmen.

Q.—Will you pay your tax if the karnam alone comes? You remit, only when officers like Tahsildar and kanganam come?

A.—We will have to bear the brunt of taxation if the State engages highly paid officers. They try to translate the zamin accounts from Tamil into English. They go through the accounts only after the translation. If we cut short our unnecessary expenditure and deduct what comes from items 1 to 55 and then tax the nanjai lands for what remains over, then it will be good. It is ordered that the "kanmoi" must be repaired. They have carried out in some parts. Before an overseer by name Muthukumarar was responsible for the whole zamin with a salary of 60 rupees. If there was any breach or damage to the "kanmoi," he will run at once to the spot and get it repaired. In his place there are now a Consulting Engineer, an Irrigation Engineer, seventeen overseers and two maistris for every overseer and below them all there are mile coolies.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Are all these people now in employment?

A.—I have come to know of their existence only three months back.

Q.—Did they dig the kanmoi?

A.—By their repair water was scarcely collected within the tank. What the little water was gathered, they escaped. They carefully guard the tank. We cultivated seedlings at a cost of 5½ rupees. They were of no use now due to want of rain.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Did you inform this to the Estate Collector?

A.—How can we see him in person.

Q.—Why not petition to him?

A.—We have spent 4 annas in sending a petition to the Collector. We have with us the certificate of posting to certify that we have lodged another petition to the Tahsildar. We have not so far received any reply. We had cattle and sheep in our possession first. We had paddy in our houses. We had enough of manure and a good amount of courage. We have no sheep now. We have the cattle-yard only now. Our condition is now despicable and unenviable. "Tharmasanamdhar" is a petty zamindar. He rack-rents his people; forces "varam" in nanjai and punjai lands alike. If we do not do the labour they order us to vacate. By appointing the zamindars as our overlords in the days of Katta-Pomman, the Government had found out a good method of getting fabulous incomes.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you now have water in the Vygai?

A.—It was full of water. But the river emptied itself into the sea and we did not benefit a pot from it.

Q.—Do you want the right of repair to be vested with the zamindar or the Government?

A.—We undergo untold of troubles from the intermediaries between the zamindars and ourselves. So we like to have the kanmoi in the possession of the Government. It is only the Government that will repair the kanmoi regularly.

The kanmoi has been repaired last year since it is a big one. The little ones are in the old state.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Do you feel any difficulty in seeing the Estate Manager and pouring forth your grievances to him?

A.—Yes.



Q.—Why?

Q.—If we interview the Estate Manager, the Tahsildar will get settled; hence fearing the latter's anger, we will not see the Estate Manager in person. If in spite of the Tahsildar's anger, we see the Estate Manager, they will concoct a case against us that we have cut down trees or damaged the kanmoi.

Q.—If you do not vent your grievances to them, how will they know and distribute justice?

A.—We can have that particular grievance redressed, if we petition to the higher officers about that. But how can we petition our numerous petty grievances.

Q.—Do they levy tax, now, even after the tree gets withered?

A.—It happens so even now.

Q.—Had you informed this to the Estate Manager?

A.—No. We will get As. 1-6 or As. 2 per tree. To get that we will have to spend 4 or 5 rupees unnecessarily. So we have petitioned to the Tahsildar. We have not informed the Estate Manager.

Witness No. 250.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. T. G. Govindaswami Nayakar, aged 48, son of Ayyappa  
Nayakar, Puliampatti, Aruppukkottai.

In Ramnad Estate, if we cultivate with water from wells sunk at our own cost, they are collecting for the first crop, Rs. 12-8-0; second crop, Rs. 6-4-0 and third crop, Rs. 6-4-0. We filed suits from 1917 to 1933 objecting that it is wrong to collect the same amount for second and third crops and we got the decree of the High Court also. They are taking masool from us. They were also distraining our cattle, sheep, etc. Though there is a decision that it is wrong to collect the abovementioned rate for both the second and third crops, yet they are collecting. Fearing that if further assessment is made, there will be a huge objection and uproar, we stopped the levy of assessment or thirva for the year 1934. They filed a suit against us in 1933. In that we were asked to pay the expenditure amount even though rain crop or nanja crop failed completely. The Special Collector of Manamadura decreed that dry crop rate should be collected. For the sake of discharging the expenditure amount, we filed a suit against one Mr. Gopala-swami Ayyangar. We asked him to deduct the thirva amount and give us back the remainder. He refused to it and said that in 1940 a system will be started and passed an order that nothing will be given in the meantime. For the non-payment of assessment they have distrained our masool property. Therefore we request that rain crop or nanja crop assessment must be abolished. For the cultivation of rain crops like kadiri, keerali, oolikilangu, chilli, tobacco, etc., they are collecting Rs. 12-8-0. Besides this they are collecting for other crops, if there is any, as follows:—

Coconut trees—As. 6-8.

Palm trees—10 pies.

Goa tree—As. 1-3.

Lime plant—As. 3-4.

Pomagranate tree—10 pies.

Margosa tree—As. 1-3.

Mango tree—As. 6-8.

We have got pattas in favour of such collections. We want that such collections also must be abolished.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you say that such assessments should not be levied?

A.—This is written in Estates Land Act, sections 13-14. We say that such assessments should be abolished. There are 2,500 villages in Ramnad Estate on the whole having karisal punja lands. They have got an assessment of 6 annas to 12 annas per acre. Puliampatti villages are six in number. They are under the possession of Nayakars. Tax of Rs. 2-6-0 to Rs. 3-4-0 is levied on such lands. When the Estate Tahsildar came there he was welcomed cordially. For that reason or act he had levied a tax or assessment of Rs. 3-4-0 per acre on those lands at that time. For the temple of God Chokkalingam, some villages are reserved. There the rate of assessment is Rs. 1-6-0 per acre. We plead that that rate of Rs. 1-6-0 should be applied to our lands also. To take stones for building houses, etc., we have to pay about Rs. 100 to Rs. 50. We require order for free removal of stones for building purposes. For agricultural purposes we are in the habit of taking sand and silt for increasing the fertility of the soil in our



lands by putting them on our lands. We have to pay per cart-load a fee of 1 anna or 2 annas or at times even 3 annas. If we do not pay it we will not be allowed to take them.

Q.—Are they selling this particular sort of soil?

A.—They are selling the sand in a tank for about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Did you not apply for transfer of patta?

A.—We filed a suit before Sivakasi Collector for effecting transfer of patta as well as release of distrained property and he decided it in favour of us.

(He filed the exhibit.)

Distrain of property must not be carried on for the balance of thirva or assessment. In 1923 our estate was surveyed. We asked for pattas to be granted according to survey estimates. We petitioned to the Zamindars of Pandalgudi, Sivaganga, and Ramnad, Rameswaram Devasthanam and Meenakshi Devasthanam, for reduction of the land revenue assessment and to effect transfer of pattas. Devasthanams of Rameswaram and Meenakshi replied that it is not within their power to do so, and that Revenue Board alone can bring about such changes or has got the authority to effect such changes.

(He filed as an exhibit, the patta given on payment of stone-tax.)

They are collecting high assessment for karisal lands. That must be reduced. Government should collect Rs. 12-8-0, assessment or tax for building houses and we should derive benefit through them. We can obtain no advantage or comfort if the management is in the hands of the estate itself. Collection work must be done under the supervision of Government officials or Members of the Assembly or Council.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Do you mean to say that M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. should collect this?

A.—It must be done according to the orders of the Government or the decision of the Members of the Council or Assembly. Government must rule over this. We cannot thrive if the management is in the estate's hand itself.

Questioned by Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do you want the zamindari system to be changed?

A.—Yes: it must be done.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How much lands do you own?

A.—Forty acres; 5 acres of nanja and 35 acres of punja.

Q.—Have you paid to the estate the thirva or assessment due from you so far?

A.—Yes. I have paid.

Q.—When did these lands come under your possession?

A.—It is following from generation to generation.

Witness No. 251.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. T. K. Karuppa Pillai, aged 50, Karungulam, Ramnad zamin.

If notice is served asking one to come and reap the harvest and if he does not turn up or if we reap the harvest after a notice, criminal prosecution must not be carried on. There is a rule that we can carry the produce of harvest to a distance of less than three miles. They are asking us to gather all the produce at a distance of five miles from the place of harvest. No rent is paid.

Questioned by Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—Is there no fixed measuring or gathering place called kalanjium in your place for each village?

A.—They have fixed that gathering place from 3 to 7 miles. We have no gathering place for each village. We do not pay any rent for a distant place.

Q.—You are not able to carry those products only when you have got urgent agricultural work. Is it not?

A.—Yes. It is difficult for us to remove the crop to that place. Therefore we have to keep in the respective villages itself. If there is no water from a tank for nanja lands,



there is a provision in the Privy Council's decision that in such cases, varam water assessment alone, that is, 5 fanams alone should be given. But this decision is not in practice or custom.

Cash-rent is collected for nanja taram punja lands and reka punja lands. If the tank is barren without water, and like manavari, then the rate of assessment fixed for manavari lands is collected. After the advent of Court of Wards, we are asking that average assessment should be given.

In Saligramam village, one Natarajan Chettiyar asked for permission to reap the crop (kanganam). The Inspecting Tahsildar's clerk told him that he would send the necessary permission required. Believing in that clerk's words, a land which would yield 10 marakkals of produce was reaped. The Tahsildar levied a fine of Rs. 25 as a punishment for having reaped the crop without permission. Then the Revenue Officer levied a fine of Rs. 75. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar has put in a petition stating that the fine levied is a high one and that Rs. 50 must be returned back. In this year there are 100 criminal cases of those who reaped the crop without obtaining the necessary permission.

There will be a patta in one's name. Another man would have got the same lands for mortgage. It is illegal to collect from one alone the amount which others have to pay. This is due to the patta kept without being transferred. Therefore, transfer of pattas must be effected soon. The powers of distraint process for the reaping of produce of a land should not be in their hands. Besides an expenditure of Rs. 1-8-0 for land notice, we have to spend Rs. 15 as expenditure as printing cost for publication of the same in the Gazette. It must not be collected. Farmers or tenants do not read the Gazette. So it is an unnecessary expenditure.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Is that complained by the zamindar also?

*Witness continues:* In Peraiyur village the zamindar took two-thirds of the lands sold in auction. He is asking Rs. 10 on the whole. We are not able to buy the lands. The lands must be let to the tenants by taking a low rate of nazar. For Kolunthurai village, where there is no tank, they are collecting Rs. 5. In Puthur village, in the places where there was punja assessment, they are now asking varam rate. The tenants refused to give varam rate. Cases were jointly levied into the Sub-Collector's Court and after a perusal of the rules for crimes, they have taken written evidences on answers from the tenants to the effect that chilli and cotton should not be cultivated. Where there was 5 annas assessment, they are asking varam. They have levied criminal cases for the refusal to pay varam. They demanded to give written answers of having cultivated cotton and chilli. They are asking varam if chilli and cotton are grown. The tenants gave written answers fearing for the lodging of criminal cases. We asked them that tanks must be constructed for us. They did not comply with our requests. Because they failed to do their duty, the tenants also did not pay varam. They were threatening the tenants that they will be punished by the Collector for the conduct of misbehaviour. Once a Mandapam Marakkayar came with a Sub-Inspector and a Magistrate with the idea of binding over the tenants. To lodge bind over case against the tenants they are trying for some means or other. They are threatening the tenants of having cultivated certain crops without their permission. This happened in 1936. The then Sub-Collector, Mr. Menon, passed an order to the effect that he must be informed a day prior to the actual harvest and then the crop must be reaped. If any one fails to do so for want of men or for some other excuses, a fine of one kurini (6 Madras measures) of paddy is levied.

Questioned by the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—Are you prepared to change the varam tenure to cash-rent basis?

A.—How can we pay, if we do not have enough of tanks and other facilities required for agricultural purposes.

Q.—You said that you are feeling difficulties in varam tenure. Are you prepared to pay cash-rent (assessment) in the place of varam tenure?

A.—If the assessment or tax levied is favourable to us, we are prepared to accept it.

Questioned by Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Are the channels and tanks kept in good condition?

A.—There is no new construction of tanks. Channel is a common one to all. Therefore it cannot be repaired. If we ask them (the zamindar or his party) to attend to the necessary repairs to the channels and tanks, they do not pay any attention to our request. So all the channels are in a bad condition.



Witness No. 253.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

## Oral evidence of Mr. P. S. Subrahmanya Ayyar, Manamadura.

In the zamindari of Sivaganga 'varam' system was prevailing formerly. Cash rent system was introduced about 10 or 15 years ago. Commodity prices ruled high at that time. When 'warapath' prevailed we were paying ' $\frac{1}{2}$  waram' to the estate. Fixed rent is being paid ever since 'theervapath' came into existence. Cash rent was fixed on the basis of an average arrived at when the prices were high. As the prices were favourable, we were paying the rent fixed, of our own free will. Since then ryots have experienced great difficulties owing to seasonal failure and fall in prices. There was the condition that remission should be granted in case of partial or complete failure of crops. Formerly there was scope for improving lands whether the system prevailing was 'warapath' or 'theervapath.' Though some difficulty was experienced, there were fairly good crops for some years. There was complete failure of crops afterwards owing to lack of water-supply. The estate was then under the management of the Court of Wards. In accordance with the conditions mentioned in the pattas, remission was granted for failure of crops. We thought the system was working properly. There was again complete failure of crops. Though there was seasonal failure of rains, though there was no sufficient water in the tanks, we tried our best to cultivate our lands, undergoing great expenses we could not succeed. The yield was poor. In these circumstances, we applied for remission for 'shavi' and 'tarisu.' They told that since we were asking for remission often and often, they would not grant it. We told that if they would refuse to give remission, we would not accept the 'theervapathu'.

The CHAIRMAN: Q.—What was the rate then?

A.—As the prices were high there was cash rate system prevailing and we were paying accordingly. The price per kalam was from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8. The rent was fixed on the level of prices then existing.

Q.—How long is it since commutation was fixed?

A.—Ten or twelve years.

Q.—Nanja rate or punja rate?

A.—Nanja rate.

Q.—What is your objection now?

A.—When the 'varapathu' system prevailed, the price of a kalam was Rs. 4 only. In the meantime, prices level began to go up. In consideration of that, they fixed a higher rate. Now the price level has gone down. Now it is impossible for the people to pay the same higher rate, because the prices have gone down by 50 per cent. The rates prevailing in 'ayan' lands are less than those prevailing in the Samasthanam. Hence we objected. After some consideration, they gave a form of remission, which we complain to be insufficient.

Q.—What about the Government rate?

A.—In 'manavari' places the rates range from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per acre. But in zamin areas the rates for 'manavari' lands range up to Rs. 25. In spite of all our difficulties, they refused to give remission for 'chavi' and 'tharisu' and this led to unnecessary litigation which involved unnecessary expenditure of money without any ultimate benefit. We are not able to get remission without having recourse to litigation. Knowing the litigation to be of no benefit, we have to take to it, because of the lack of any other means and we have to lose our property as a result of the litigation. Some people mortgage their lands, some other people undergo so many difficulties to pay off their rent. Many people have come to the miserable stage of selling all their properties. Many people who have been once in affluent circumstances have sold their properties and gone to other places to seek a livelihood.

Q.—Which rate do you want now?

A.—I calculate and tell you. The cultivation expenses per acre amount to Rs. 35. They will get Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 from the produce and Rs. 10 from the straw. If the landholders themselves plough the lands a living wage must be given to them which must be taken as cost of cultivation. That living wages will be equivalent to the normal cultivation expenses. On the basis of this calculation there will be a saving of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. Excluding the amount that is to be set apart for purchasing seeds, etc., for the next season, the net saving comes up to Rs. 5 only. Half of this saving comes to Rs. 2½. Of course that rate is miserably low. We want lower rates of rent. If rates ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 be fixed, it will benefit the people to some extent. We will be able to improve our lands and get some benefit out of it. Regarding 'punjai' rates range from 6 annas to Rs. 1-8-0. In some localities they collect a higher



rate from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 4-8-0. Such a rate of rent for crops for the cultivation of which we have to depend upon the rains is unbearable. Hence we want reduction of rent. At the time of fixing the rent rate at Rs. 4, the prices were high. But now that the old high prices have come down, the old high rate of rent has become excessive. We say that this must be reduced.

One other grievance. During the failure of crops in 'nanjai' and 'punjai' lands we have to pay the rent from our pockets and in that stage even two annas and six annas items are a burden to us. We ask for full remission of rent for 'punjai' lands if there is a failure of crops because of the lack of rain. Our prayer is that whatever form of rent be fixed, it must be a rent based on the circumstances of the season. Only that we can pay. This kind of thing existed when the 'varapathu' system prevailed. Then we used to pay, when there was a successful harvest and not to pay when the failure of crops occurred. We pray that we must be granted remission of rent according to circumstances.

Garden land rents we are not able to pay. Garden land is formed by the labour of the landholder. He either invests his own money in digging or borrows money to dig a well and then he cultivates. Since the zamin does not render any help to the ryot in this affair, no kind of enhanced rent should be levied. Remissions of garden rent is given in some cases out of grace. There is a circular to the effect that remission must be granted in cases of alkalinal damage by floods and drought. But the circular is not generally enforced.

Then there are 'manavari' tanks. Generally they are not filled with water in time due to the failure of seasonal rains. Sometimes due to excessive water—when there was a good monsoon—the regular growth of crops would be impeded. Sometimes even when there is one month water in the tank, we have to feed our crops with well water. Then in this case the cost of cultivation is increased. Our request is that, on such occasions, proportionate remission should be given.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are they not giving 25 per cent remission?

A.—I don't know.

The CHAIRMAN : Q.—What are the sources of water-supply?

A.—The major portion of the zamin area is rainfed. There are some portions which are irrigated by Vaigai channel. But after the Government have dug the Periyar channel and diverted the river, our channels are not well supplied with water and hence the second class of source of water-supply has reduced itself to the category of the first class.

Q.—What about the repairs?

A.—They are carrying out repairs, as far as they can. But they are not thorough repairs. Since rents are fixed, they do not carry out repairs on a thorough fashion. Even now there are so many repairs which must be taken up at once.

Q.—What about the grazing rights?

A.—The forest area in our zamin is limited. Hence there are not sufficient grazing facilities. Even in places where there are grazing facilities, we have to get licence.

Since settlements of rent have been effected one after another, lands were not classified in a proper way.

Q.—Has not the Government Settlement Officer himself carried out the settlement operations here?

A.—No. In some places, the rate is low for very fertile lands and the rate is very high for 'manavari' lands. Hence settlement must be effected according to the source of irrigation and the facilities of water-supply.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Who is it that effected the settlement?

A.—When the samasthanam was under the control of the Court of Wards, the settlement process was carried out. Government did not do it. They carried out the survey work only.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Is it the Estate Collector or the Government official who carried out the settlement work?

A.—Government officers did not carry out the settlement work. It was carried out by the Estates Collector, through his staff when the estate was under the control of the Court of Wards.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Are you not given a remission of 30 per cent owing to the fall in prices?

A.—They are giving certain remissions. But they are not adequate.

Q.—What is the value of one acre of wet land in Manamadura?

A.—From Rs. 500 to Rs. 800.



Q.—What is the rent of such land?

A.—Ranging between Rs. 15 and Rs. 20.

Q.—Have you leased out such lands?

A.—I have not leased out my lands. My tenants themselves cultivate.

Q.—What income you will get?

A.—As I have not leased out the land, I don't know what income the tenant will get if he sub-lets it.

Q.—Are you directly leasing out the land?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What income do you get?

A.—I get half varam.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—How much do the tenants give to you?

A.—They will give half of the net income after deducting the cultivation expenses, etc.

Q.—Who is it that pays the rent?

A.—I pay the rent. The enhanced tax is excessive. Hence our complaints.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Have you got lease deeds?

A.—I have no lease deeds. Mine is all oral agreement. We have been doing like this for a very long time.

Q.—How long have you been in possession of these lands? Have you purchased any?

A.—From the time of my ancestors. I have not purchased any land in my time.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Have you studied agriculture?

A.—I am an agriculture diploma-holder.

Q.—How much do you pay to the estate?

A.—About Rs. 650.

Q.—What remission do you get generally?

A.—About 30 per cent.

Q.—What did you get last year?

A.—I have completely paid for last fasli, i.e., 1346. Up to 1345 I had some arrears, but it was completed by settlement.

Q.—What was the remission given to you?

A.—With regards to this question, the remission granted to me was a liberal remission. There was a large amount of arrears before 1345 but by agreement I got a remission of Rs. 1,300.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—You are the only person who obtained this?

A.—I applied and got it. General remission was not granted.

Q.—This remission was given to you for the arrears which remained after you paid. Is it not so?

A.—The settlement was arrived at for the arrears which remained after I paid off part of my rent.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—How much remission do you want now?

A.—No amount of remission will suffice if the original rate is prevalent.

Q.—Is 30 per cent reasonable or not?

A.—It may be reasonable in some cases and may not be in some other cases. As far my case is concerned, the rate must be fixed between Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per acre and remission must be given to the extent of that amount which will accrue as a result of that settlement.

Q.—Is 30 per cent sufficient or not?

A.—Not sufficient.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—In dry lands do you grow groundnuts, tobacco and chillies?

A.—No. On dry lands we cannot grow such produce under the present conditions. In the whole estate in the dry lands, so far as I know, there is no such cultivation.

Q.—Because you think the land is not rich enough for groundnut?

A.—Groundnut is generally a dry crop grown in a portion of the estate.

Q.—What about chillies?

A.—Chillies do not grow in dry lands.

Q.—Not in garden lands also?

A.—To some extent chillies are grown in garden lands.

Q.—Is tobacco grown under the wells?

A.—In small portions under the well irrigation tobacco is grown.



Q.—In tobacco what will the ryot get?

A.—I cannot give a definite idea as what income would be obtained by tobacco cultivation.

Q.—Will it come to Rs. 500 per acre?

A.—From the agricultural knowledge I have, I can say that the sum of Rs. 500 is an exaggerated amount and Rs. 200 will be the proper yield.

Q.—How much tobacco cultivation is being made?

A.—In a garden about 50 cents will be cultivated.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Are you able to cope with the payment of Rs. 600 as rent?

A.—I am not able to cope with such payment. I am thinking of selling my lands. I can't live on that alone. In spite of my knowledge in agriculture and my attempts to improve the land, I find by practical experience that it is not advantageous under the existing conditions. I have also tried several methods in this matter. But I have been bitterly disappointed.

Q.—Were you under the impression that you can lead a prosperous life by cultivating the vast extent of lands you possess?

A.—Yes. But in practice, I find it difficult.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—So agriculture is not a paying concern?

A.—Especially in a zamindari area.

Q.—Have you got some cowl lands?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the rent?

A.—Rs. 6 per acre.

Q.—Do you think even that is high?

A.—Yes. I have worked out the figures. I am getting only Rs. 2½. I have got a knowledge of agricultural service to whom I have got to pay extra wages. So then that rate is high.

Q.—You prefer always new methods of cultivation?

A.—Yes. I am doing, trying and experimenting with no profit.

Q.—In spite of that you are not prosperous?

A.—Yes. Agriculture depends upon natural conditions. In the course of six years from 1923 to 1929, thousands of suits have been launched in courts, enormous amount of expense has been incurred and I think there are still some suits pending.

Q.—What is the result of the suits so far?

A.—Undoubtedly all unfavourable to the ryots. (Laughter.) There are some cases pending in the District Court too.

Regarding 'poramboke' lands, there were two classes: village lands and 'nat-tam' lands. If I remember correct, in those days, there were no lands set apart specifically as poramboke lands. They were in the enjoyment of the ryots. They grew trees in those lands and enjoyed them without any hindrance. Now, there is no tax for trees that are in wet lands. They want tax for all the trees that are in other places. We cannot pay that rent. Those trees were grown out of some necessities. They will be removed when some necessity arises. The zamindar too will fell the trees, if he requires them. The trees must not be taxed since they are beneficial to the people. Now they collect rent for some trees which are in patta lands. We say that those trees must be left to our possession. Mr. Shield issued a circular in his time asking the people to grow trees. Now the trees which are in patta lands are restored to our possession. We now ask for the enjoyment of those trees which are not in patta lands. There is a certain rate for dry lands. We are always bound to pay that. In that land, we build a house or a shop or a cinema theatre and let it to others. We pay a certain amount of rent to the zamin leased upon the cultivation rate. They prevent us from getting the little amount of profit from this. They always stand in our way whenever we try to find out a new means of livelihood.

As far as forest is concerned there are no restrictions. We pray that a statutory rate must be fixed and we must be given the right to enjoy without any restriction.

The blessings of God are lacking in so far as water-sources are concerned. The irrigation sources must be improved in some other way and we must be given greater facilities for cultivation. Some time back, the zamindar did not carry out the necessary repairs. We sent a notice to the Collector. But we received a reply to the effect that we could carry out the repairs ourselves after issuing a notice to the zamindar and that we could recover the sum from him. But nothing was done in practice. One word



regarding the legal aspect. We are not able to pay the stamp fees, lawyer's fees, summon batta fees and conduct the litigation. We are poor. A tribunal consisting of a Revenue officer, two outsiders, two ryots and two landholders must be formed so that our disputes may be settled and justice rendered without the burden of the enormous expenses. Either the Board of Revenue or His Excellency the Governor must be the appellate authority. The members of the panchayat must be elected. Panchayats of this kind must be started in various centres. Then only people will be able to get justice without unnecessary expenditure. These are our points.

Witness No. 254.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Odayappa, President, Zamin Ryots' Association,  
Sivaganga.

Since the introduction of the tax, we are hard pressed. The ryots are thinking of running away to far off places. Many people who had gone like this have not yet returned. In our zamin the rate of rent ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 24. There is a Government taluk, Melur taluk by name, which is near Sivaganga. In the Government village of Malampatti, the rate is from Rs. 4 to Rs. 7½ per acre. In the village of Idyamelur which is near it, the rate goes up to Rs. 20. Rupees six per acre is collected in Tiruvempattu and in the village of Kumali in Tiruvadanai taluk. The zamin rate ranges from Rs. 14 to Rs. 21 per acre. In the taluk of Paramakudi, for the Government land the rate per acre is Rs. 6-12-0. In the neighbouring zamin villages, the rate ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 20.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—In the place you have mentioned now, how many acres of zamin land are there which bear an assessment of Rs. 20 per acre?

A.—In our villages, one-third of the extent of the lands bear that assessment. But I cannot give the full extent of the zamin lands which come under that rate.

Q.—Can you say that only 60 acres of land bear an assessment of Rs. 24 per acre?

A.—I do not know definitely. But from what people say, I think there are vast extent of lands which bear that rate. There are lands with the rate of Rs. 20 per acre in my patta No. 210.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—For what amount did you purchase that land?

A.—Those lands are hereditary lands. I purchased one acre some 10 years back. It costed Rs. 400.

Q.—Did you not purchase at a cost of more than Rs. 1,000?

A.—I did not purchase at that price.

Q.—Have you got documents for the lands, which you say, you have purchased?

A.—There are. I will file them.

These rates are unbearable. (Files records regarding Government rates.) They do not repair the 'kanmai.' I will file the petitions sent to the Diwan and to the estate officers asking for the immediate execution of repairs. Only one or two tanks are repaired in our area. There are still very many tanks which are in need of repair. The repairs they have effected are only incomplete. It is more than five or six years since the 'kalungus' have been damaged in Vesangapatti. The ryots are sending in petitions every year. Still they are not repaired. They have established now an Engineering department. They are now engaged in the work of rent collection. Some two or three days back I met an overseer in the house of a person. I asked him what 'kanmai' he is going to repair. He told me that he had come not for that work but for the collection of rent.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA: Q.—The 'kanmois' can be repaired only during summer. Why should they not collect rents in the other period?

A.—They collect rents even during summer.

Q.—Why should not they go for kist collection work when they have no other work?

A.—If the repairs are regularly attended to, they will have enough work. But they do not care at all for the 'maramat' work. They are more interested in the collection of rent. My statistics will show how they neglect the repair works—

					RS.
Estimate during fasli	1334	..	..	..	3,80,506
Do.	1335	..	..	..	1,21,500
Do.	1336	..	..	..	1,31,500
Do.	1337	..	..	..	62,900



After this period they did not carry out any repair work. But this year, they say, that they have allotted a lakh of rupees for this purpose.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Diwan says that 35 lakhs of rupees have been spent from 1919 to 1937. Is it so?

A.—I do not know that. But from the present state of the 'kanmais' we cannot say even that they have spent one lakh of rupees for the past 20 years in repair works.

Q.—What is the income of the zamin?

A.—When the tax system was introduced, the income amounted to Rs. 1,67,000. Now it will amount to more than 20 lakhs of rupees.

Q.—How do you know this?

A.—Though I do not know in detail, I have a rough idea of it.

Q.—You mean from 'hear say.' It is said that the income would be between 10 and 12 lakhs and not more than that?

A.—I do not say definitely that they collect Rs. 20 lakhs. I have given only an approximate account.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do you say that if the 'kanmai maramat' was carried out, the income would be Rs. 20 lakhs?

A.—I speak from what I know from their budget estimates.

Due to various reasons the crops are not successful and because the crops are not successful, the ryots say that they are not able to pay such high rent. There is one 'kanmai' by name 'Maramattu kanmai.' When the crops in it are partly grown and partly not grown, they lease out the 'kanmai' for fish lease. The lessees close the 'madai' so that the fish may prosper, even though the ryots may be in need of water for their crops. If the 'madai' is closed all of a sudden how can we expect a successful crop? How can we pay the kist? The ryots gave telegrams after telegrams to the Diwan and the zamindar. Nothing came out of it. After sending petitions to the Magistrate and the Collector, we got an order from them to the effect that the 'madai' may be opened. Then we tried to open the 'madai' with police 'bandobust.' But they prevented us from doing so with the help of the rowdies whom they brought from Aravangadu.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—All these happenings are due to the factions in the village. Is it not so?

A.—Not at all.

In some villages they collect Rs. 5 for watering fields for one hour. They do like this so that they may exhort money from ryots. The villages near Melur are supplied with water from Periyar. They tried to bring that water to the tank by digging a channel. But they dropped the scheme in the meanwhile.

Q.—Do you know that the Government have refused to give a good quantity of Periyar water?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Do you know the estate Diwan is trying his level best to get for you that water?

A.—I do not know whether they have supplied the villages on that side with that water. They might or might not have done so. But we never got that supply. Facilities for the supply of that channel water must be given to us. Our rate must be the same as the rate prevailing in 'ayan' areas.

Witness No. 255.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chockalingam Ambalam, Sivaganga.

They collect what is called "Varushapathu." They demand from us 10 kalams, 30 padis and odd, even if the yield is only 5 kalams. They have given pattas also like that. If the yield is below 5 kalams, they divide the produce on the "varam" basis. One "matha" is equal to 1 acre and 75 cents. The yield from one "matha" will be 10 to 15 kalams. The cultivation expenses will amount to Rs. 50 per "matha." The net income will be 7 or 8 kalams. We are not able to pay our rent. We are not able even to eke out our livelihood. If our rent for fasli 1345 is not paid, they will distrain



our property in fasli 1347 without giving any proper intimation to us. Of course they will put up a distraint order form, some with the peshkar's signature and some without it, somewhere. They will put up a piece of paper in the "kalam" where we harvest. What can we do if they put these distraint order forms in some place? There are very many illiterate people among us. These papers fly away in the air. If we harvest the crop, they will institute criminal prosecution against us. If a man with 10 acres of lands has an arrear of Rs. 25 to pay, 5 acres of his land will be sold in auction for one rupee. It will be purchased in the name of the estate. If the yield is above 5 kalams, it is called "madangal" and if the yield is less than that, it is called "pulli." If the yield is below 5 kalams, they will classify the produce under the latter category only if they desire so. If not, they will classify it as "madangal." We are enjoying fuel rights in the forest areas and porambokes up to fasli 1338. We used to graze our cattle and carry home fuel wood too. We were denied these rights from fasli 1338. Our cattle had been driven in the pound in large numbers. They have instituted criminal prosecutions against us alleging that we have driven away our cattle from their custody by force. We used to build houses in "porambokes." We used to carry clay. But now they prevent us from enjoying these rights. There is a piece of land which does not come under the class "natham." It may be either "punja" or "nanjai poramboke." They demand a "nasar" for it, if we build a house there. Now I will speak about our villages and "konmois." It cannot be said that they have dug even a single "konmoi" after the time of the Court of Wards. For our cultivation, we have to depend on rains. The regular and seasonal rains also fail now. Even if the yield amounts only to 5 kalams, we have to pay 10 kalams. Our system must be formed in conformity with those which prevail in the neighbouring villages. In the village of Palampatti which is nearby, the rent does not exceed Rs. 4-6-0. That rate must be introduced here also. Otherwise, we must be allowed to pay in kind.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Do you say that you cannot accept the commutation rate?

A.—We cannot accept.

Q.—Was not the Eriyur tank repaired some two or three years back?

A.—A great breach occurred. Now they have closed that breach. They have done nothing more.

Q.—What else do you want?

A.—They have only closed the breach which was 16 feet long. But the konmoi, whose area is 2 miles, has not been dug and repaired.

Q.—Have you reported the matter to the Diwan?

A.—We have sent petitions to him about matters which concerned all "konmois."

Q.—Has the Diwan paid good many visits to your village?

A.—The Senior Diwan used to visit our village once or twice in a year. The Assistant Diwan will visit often. During his visits, we complained to him about these things and about the hardships that are caused to us. They promised to redress our grievances soon. But nothing has been done so far. We used to cultivate these portions of the forest area which are fit for cultivation. We have got also records for that.

Q.—Were the pattas issued regularly in the time of the Court of Wards?

A.—No.

Q.—Have you got patta?

A.—I have got.

Q.—How did you get it?

A.—It is a patta issued before fasli 1328. Now they do not transfer pattas. Nor do they issue pattas.

Q.—Is your patta in your name?

A.—The patta is not in my name. But my name finds its place in their "adan-gal." The lands are registered in the name of my brothers and myself. The relationship which we have with the zamin is different from the relationship which others have. If we cultivate our lands, they used to collect from us tax in proportion to the amount of produce harvested. Now they do not do so. First we must pay the "nasar." Then we have to pay the usual tax. By this process we pay an excess of 10 kalams or Rs. 4-6-0



Q.—Have you got records for that?

A.—This is the record. You must return it after perusal.

Q.—You told me that they demanded “ nasar ” from you. Is there any record for that?

A.—We have got records for the “ nasar ” we have paid. We will produce within the time you specify.

Q.—They demand it only for the lands which do not belong to you and which you cultivate. Is it not so?

A.—We cultivate and enjoy the land with a view to make it our own. They may collect some tax for it.

Q.—The forest land you have mentioned of is not yours?

A.—Let them collect rent for it. But they should not collect “ nasar ” for it.

Q.—They collect it only if you cultivate without their permission?

A.—There is no necessity at all to get their permission. It is customary to cultivate without their permission, those lands which are fit for cultivation. There is an agreement that, if we cultivate without their permission, we must pay tax. That is a condition that is found in this patta also.

Q.—Do you give “ nasar ” for the lands that come under that agreement?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you got any record to prove that?

A.—There is a record. I will send it by post.

There is what is called “ ambala manipam ” in our village. We used to pay Rs. 1-9-0 for one “ Matha,” i.e., for  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres and enjoy all the rights. This custom obtains for a long time. But during the time of the Court of Wards, we were told that we would be allowed the enjoyment of the full rights only if we pay Rs. 15. We disputed their claim and we have got the judgment of the High Court. I will file it. As far as temples are concerned, there are “ devasthanam ” villages. There is a class of land called “ Varapathu.” After the harvest, we pay half of the produce to the zamindar and take the remaining half for ourselves. But the division will be made only after the expenditure has been met from the gross produce. The present system of harvesting is like this: we go and inform them that we intend harvesting to-morrow. Only after they have given their consent, we can harvest. Since we are not able to harvest our crops when we wish, our crops suffer damages and hence we incur loss.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What other system do you want?

A.—I want the system that is embodied in this patta to be reformed and enforced.

Q.—Do they regularly give to the people concerned the “ manipa suthanthram ” which they collect?

A.—They give. But they do not utilize properly the amount collected for the repairs of “ konmois.”

Q.—Is the “ suthanthram ” paid regularly?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—How many acres of land do you own?

A.—I have got 100 acres of dry and 150 acres of wet lands.

Q.—What is the rate of rent per acre for wet lands?

A.—For  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres, I pay 10 kalams 32 and odd “ padis.”

Q.—How much do you get from one acre?

A.—The maximum income will be 12 kalams.

Q.—Have you not got 40 kalams?

A.—At no time we have harvested so much.

Q.—Have you not got 40 kalams from 1 acre and 75 cents?

A.—Some 25 years ago 1 acre and 75 cents of land yielded 30 kalams. But now the yield is never more than 20 kalams.



Q.—Have they given remission?

A.—At no time they have given remission.

Q.—Have they granted you any remission? Or have they collected from you amount lesser than that you owe, through settlement?

A.—They might have collected from some persons amounts lesser than those fixed by the Tahsildar. They have collected so from me.

Q.—For what amount have they given remission?

A.—They gave remission to the amount of Rs. 600. At one time I paid in a lump sum Rs. 1,500.

Q.—Have they written off more than half the amount out of an arrear of Rs. 5,000?

A.—It might have been so according to their account. But I owed them Rs. 2,040. Deducting from it Rs. 540 which they owed me, I paid the rest. I have got receipt for that.

Q.—The arrears are due to non-payment of tax. Is it not so?

A.—Yes. The arrears are due to inability to pay the rent.

Witness No. 256.

Madras.

25th February 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. R. V. Swaminadhan of Paganeri.**

Under this land revenue system, there is exorbitant assessment in Malampatti village. That village is in the Sivaganga Zamin. In those days they have fixed the assessment there from Rs. 6 to 8. In other villages, the assessment has been levied with reference to rate in the ryotwari villages. In a place in the zamin area irrigated by the river they have levied an assessment up to Rs. 6 or 8. When, later, the price of paddy was high, they enhanced the assessment with reference to that price even as much as Rs. 25. Hence they also know that if the assessment is to be levied, it should not exceed Rs. 6 or 8. The rates should be similar to those in ryotwari areas. There should not be a permanent settlement. The settlement should be made once in 10 years. There are arrears of rent up to 50 lakhs of rupees. The people have no means for paying them. They distrain the crops. We have pointed out that this is wrong. If the crops are distrained, can we harvest them, sell them and pay the rent? The entire crops perish. Neither the zamindar nor the tenant profits. It must be ordered that the crops should not be distrained. In the matter of distraint, agricultural implements and cattle should not be attached. It is provided in their demand notice itself that they should not attach the jewels of women. But they do not observe this. They removed the ear-rings worn by one person. They distrain bullocks. They have my bullock in my absence. Notice of distraint is not given. They seize the bullock and lead it away immediately and simply tells us to pay the money and then take back the animal. The former pays something and returns.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—Do they attach the plough oxen? A.—Yes.

The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—How many years ago? A.—They seized my bullock in 1935 when I was absent from the village. I returned in half an hour but did not find the animal. On enquiry, I was told of the distraint. I followed at once and brought back the bullock. It is my opinion that the bullocks and cows should not be distrained. There is a forest and with difficulty watching it.

Q.—‘Village forest?’ A.—I do not know whether it is a village forest or not. They leased out everything and all the fuel has been taken away. We have no means of collecting green manure. There was a large number of dry lands. We used to plough them and sow grass seeds and horsegram for our cattle. At the time of settlement, the zamindar said that they were his lands and appropriated them. Formerly we were using them.

Q.—I suppose there would have been patta in those days. A.—There might have been. We would have also paid the assessment then. The survey department have taken them up.



Q.—‘Why did you not fight it out?’ A.—Then I was reading in the school. I do not know about it.

Q.—‘So, it is your father’s mistake.’ A.—I do not say so. He did not attend to it.

Q.—Was it Government survey? A.—As far as I know, it was only the survey made by the Court of Wards. The figures that I have furnished are based on the explanation of the Government given when Sri Viswanatha Doss asked a question in the Council regarding the Irrigation department. I think that the remedy for all this trouble is the abolition of the zamindari system. I suggest that the Government should take up the administration of all the lands. Means should be devised for this. If that is not done, agents should be appointed for redressing the grievances of the peasants in the zamin areas. There should be agents for protecting the zamin peasants.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—What should be their status? A.—They should be non-officials. A non-official should be appointed.

Q.—Should the appointment be honorary? A.—If necessary salary may be paid.

Q.—If salary is paid, he will become an officer. A.—It should be done as may be deemed proper. There is much hardship in inam villages. The inamdar think as though they have purchased the men in their villages. If there is a marriage or a funeral in the house of the inamdars the servant has to go and work in their houses. This practice should be altered.

Witness No. 257.

Madura.

25th February 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ramaswami of Bodinayakkanur.

He read the following passage :—

There are about 2,500 Harijan families and cobblers in the 48 villages belonging to the Bodinayakkanur zamin. They do not own any land for cultivation. They are eking out their livelihood by working for wages. Two per cent of them live by making shoes, etc. In the Bodinayakkanur zamin, the zamindar has appointed a person known as Bokari monigar for all the 48 villages and collects Rs. 7-8-0 whenever we effect a divorce. Even when we have the disputes arising among us settled through a panchayat consisting of the members of our community, a portion of the time imposed by the panchayat has to be paid to the zamindar. On certain specified days in the year free work is extracted from the Harijan families living in the above villages. If they fail to go to work, 8 annas per head is collected. A tax of 4 annas per cow or bullock and 2 annas per sheep is collected in the case of the cattle taken from Bodinayakkanur to the Travancore hill. A tax of 1 anna is collected in respect of the skins and hides brought from the Travancore frontier. They collect a tax of one rupee per head for the cows and bullocks coming from the hill.

Witness No. 258.

Madura.

25th February 1938

Oral evidence of Mr. Shek Ismail Ambalam of Manamadura, aged 117 years.

I am pattadar No. 187. There has been no rain during the last two years. I have grown old and have also lost my eyesight. The patta is in my name. The Estate Collector filed a suit and arrested me under a warrant five or six years ago. The court sent me away. I am leasing my lands. They are having arrears of Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 in my name.



Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—In which year were you born?

A.—I was born on the 19th December 1823. There is no cultivation whatever. It is impossible to pay the tax. The Sessions Judge sent me away. Fifty persons joined together and worked up the matter in the High Court. A judgment was given directing the payment of the costs incurred in the two courts. The Estate Collector appealed to the High Court and that court has passed an unfavourable order. Justice should be meted out to me.

Witness No. 260.

Madras.

20th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kolli Buchaiah, Veeraiah, Chittela village, Gampalagudem estate, Kistna district.

I am a Gampalagudem Estate ryot. Our Zamindar is Kotagiri Parthasarathy Rao Garu. He is a minor. Jagannadharao Garu is acting as his guardian and is looking after the affairs. Kotagiri Venkatakrishna Rao Garu is adopted son. He divided and took one-third of the property. Remaining two-thirds is in the estate.

I am ryot of the Minor's Estate. The taxes we pay are very high.

I have got land. I pay to the estate Rs. 1,500. I have got land in Chittela village. In other places also I pay Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 hundred. I pay the Mirazapur Rajah also which is only about Rs. 20. I am paying Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 in Old Tiruvur and Nadim Tiruvur villages. I have got connexion with four estates.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What are the rates for wet and dry in Gampalagudem estate. A.—I have got about 100 acres of wet land and two or three hundred acres of dry land. The rate for wet ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 14 and that for dry from 6 annas to Rs. 5. There are Government lands in our village. The Government is nowhere more than Rs. 3-12-0. Water convenience is similar to rent. We cannot live if they are not made like them. They force us but do not repair the tanks. They demand money from us for expenses of repairing the tanks. They never return that amount—not up till now. The aykut was enhanced from 30, 40 acres to a 100. There is no profit at all by increasing the ayacut. The wet rate in Chittela is from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 even up to Rs. 14 excluding cesses and unjust taxes. In fasli 1307, i.e., in 1897 it was Rs. 3 or Rs. 4.

The witness produced the record of Kattiprolu village with the signature of the zamindar.

In 1307 fasli the rate for Nos. 386 and 387 was Rs. 3.

In 1323 fasli the rate for Nos. 386 and 387 was Rs. 10.

The land was 2 acres and 35 cents. It was enhanced to Rs. 10 per acre. We paid Rs. 23-8-0 at Rs. 9-4-0. Now we are paying Rs. 123. There was a survey conducted in 1323 fasli. I am filing the permanent A register. He produced the register and showed the corresponding entries with the signature of the tanedar and also of the zamindar.

After this the rate was enhanced from Rs. 4-8-0 to Rs. 23 though the land remained the same without any increase. The survey was conducted in fasli 1323, that is, 1930. After that there was no increase nor recently there was any enhancement. The same is the case with Lakshmipuram and Venkobai patnams.

He produced the permanent A register of Lakshmipuram. Dowlu is Rs. 500.

In fasli 1307 it was Rs. 5 and now it is Rs. 16.

In fasli 1307 it was Rs. 5-8-0 and now it is Rs. 11.

The lands are the same and there is no difference at all. No irrigation facilities are made. There are the signatures of the zamindar and the tanedar. It was enhanced by Rs. 11. Under the black tank, for 1 acre and 36 cents it was Rs. 5-8-0 which was enhanced to Rs. 11.

The dowlu of Lakshmipuram in fasli 1278 was Rs. 540-2-0. That year the demand registers were written by the karnam. Suryanarayana Rao Garu wrote them. After that his brother came.

	RS.	A.	P.
Fasli 1278—the dowlu was ...	540	2	0
Fasli 1307—the dowlu was ...	1,933	8	1
Now in 1342—the dowlu is ...	6,436	15	3



To a question by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu the witness said: There was no addition of new lands. The term rate was changed. There was no increase in the extent of lease.

To a question by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu the witness said: It has been so on account of the change in term rate. The rate remark is there.

In 1317 the rate in Malpuru village was from 8 annas to Rs. 3 for the land. Even now the same rate is prevalent. Numbers for which the rates have changed are not with me, they are with ryots. The enhancement was made even for dry lands.

He produced the records and showed the items. In the village of Irakapedu the land belonging to Laxminarayana, Manepalli Venkayya Garu is assessed in the lease register as follows:—

									RS.	A.	P.
1307 fasli, dry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	0
1341 fasli, dry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	0	0

Now it has been numbered which is done according to the ryot. Vaya, wet seri all is the same. Wet land is accounted as dry according to goodwill that the ryot carries.

For five numbers of Manikonda Venkayya's dry land the assessment in fasli 1307 was Rs. 3. For the same, the same in extent even now, now the tax is Rs. 39-9-0. The land belonging to Nallamopu Ramaswami five numbers of Badava was assessed Rs. 10 in fasli 1307. Now in 1341 the same field with the same area is assessed at Rs. 71-12-2. There are many instances like this. Where there is an increase. He filed the list.

To a question by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu the witness said: No streams were brought into use. We entirely depend upon rain for raising crops. No streams or rivulets.

Gudikattu account. Total assessment was Rs. 861. No increased cultivation but now the tax is Rs. 2,987-11-11.

He filed the corresponding entries in the old and new books.

To a question by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu the witness said: In our village there are Government ryotwari service inams. The Government rate is from 10 annas to Re. 1. The rate of 10 annas was enhanced up to Re. 1 in Chittela and Irakapadu. In Anjaneyapuram the rate is as low as 7 annas.

The supply of water to the wet lands is from the tanks. In Chittela and Irakapadu there are canals leading the water to the tanks from the river. The tanks are filled by these canals. The repairs to these tanks are carried out in the name of the zamindars. We do so as otherwise we cannot live. We subscribe the required amount, but we say that the zamindar has given the money. The zamindars take it when we give when it is not given they do not keep quiet. My father got them repaired. Bunds of the canals were strengthened.

We constructed the whole bund. The account is not with me now. It was dry and now it is cultivated wet. Even now there is an inscription dated 1814 on the bund of the tank. The amount spent by my father is not yet paid back by the zamindar. There was an increase of 200 acres in the ayacut after the construction of this bund. This land was assessed from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12 rate. The zamindar said, personally, that the Rs. 2,000 spent for that was collected in four years. "Banmakala gunta," Patakatta, Chittela—8 acres of dry land was converted into wet. The ayacut was enhanced by 50 acres. They are collecting Rs. 500 at Rs. 10 per acre for these 50 acres. For the 8 acres they are collecting at the rate of Rs. 12 and Rs. 14. This belongs to our village.

There is still 30 acres in Yenamaru tank. They were requested to get the tank repaired. For 15 acres they have assessed at Rs. 16 per acre. We had it repaired—even the sluices with chunam, at a cost of Rs. 1,700. In 1913 we had the oraka repaired at a cost of Rs. 1,500. The zamindar had agreed that we had got them repaired. Afterwards he wrote to the ryot asking him to break the oraka as it was a hindrance to the canal. That is how they behave. (The witness filed the letter written by the zamindar.) (He then produced another letter dated 19th August 1937.) It was written there that the rate had been enhanced by Rs. 2 per acre. They promised not to reclaim. But no repairs were carried out up till now. For the last thirteen years no repairs at all to this tank. (The witness filed some 'cowls' and 'kathus' to show enhancement of rates.)



Originally remissions were being granted. No remission now. In fasli 1307 account remission seems to have been granted—Remission was granted in 1306 and 1307. No remissions are granted now. It is evident that remission was granted in Lakshmipuram Venkopadu in fasli 1303. I am filing the records.

The agent of our zamindar is here. In Chittela village the rate which was Rs. 10 years back is now Rs. 35 for the same number. I am filing 'cowles' in which boundaries are noted. We cannot narrate the difficulties on account of the forest. The bed of the tank, communal lands all are encroached upon as self-cultivation lands. Some lands of the ryots are also occupied. I am filing the judgment delivered in 1902 with regard to the lands of Mallela village. For 60 acres of wet land the assessment was enhanced from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 4-8-0. Attachments were made for non-payment. In appeal the Collector confirmed the original rate of Rs. 3-8-0. In the lower court the zamindars filed cases and had fifteen people convicted for seventeen days simple imprisonment and payment of Rs. 50 fine each. The Collector, in appeal, quashed the conviction opining that the land was the ryots' and not zamindars' self-cultivation. After this judgment, for the last 36 years, this same 60 acres was not restored to us. Even now it is in their possession. The ryots who filed suits had to sell away their lands. They migrated unable to bear the pressure of the zamindar. We submitted recently a memorandum to the Collector. They had got hedged the pathways to prevent me from coming to Rajahmundry to speak before the committee. My cattle were impounded so that I may not give evidence before you. These zamindars are troubling us like this.

The road leading to Tiruvur was closed by a pit and hedge. The zamindar said that it was in their plan. Last year it was not there. Now there is no road there. The Collector scrutinized the Government plan and found it there. An order was passed by the Collector on 28th February 1938 after warning the zamindar, to the effect that the pathway should be left open for use. Nallakota Subbayya was asked to leave the house in which he was living for the last 38 years. He left the house and migrated to another village—to the Nizam's Dominions. They say that the site is their own cultivation land.

He then read an extract from Telugu Newspaper *Vahini*, in which it is stated that service inams were restored to the ryots where the zamindar contended that they were his 'kamatham' lands. The High Court decreed in favour of the ryots. Only those who had sold away their whole properties and contended against the zamindar, contesting that the lands were their own, got their lands back. The lands of others are in the possession of the zamindar.

Forest troubles cannot be enumerated. They have impounded our cattle for not taking forest chit. It was given without forest mall up to 1889-1890. In 1900 they began to collect 'mall' ryots filed suits.

The witness read a letter written by the zamindar in which it is stated "It must be given on application to Mallela villagers and for 'mall' to other villages." It concerns Mallela village. The rate for the forest is 2 annas or their like Sir. It can be seen from this paper that the Chittela village people had all rights in the forest. (Here the witness filed the paper.) For the Chittela, forest bounded by specified boundaries, the chit was 3 annas. In 1330 we used to pay only 1 anna. Nominally they say they have reserved it even when we sent a petition to the Collector. If we send petitions to the zamindar he smashes them to the ground and abuses us. In the order they have issued it is stated that chits for fuel, etc., will not be granted for forest No. 610 as it has been reserved. They say it is reserved only to trouble us. It is clear from these receipts that it was not reserved. They do not allow our cattle to graze in the forest. They say they reserved it for impounding our cattle. I am submitting receipts Pullari chits of Irakampadu. Cattle are not allowed to go there. The forest lands in Lakshmipuram village were given for 'cowls' two months back in the names of the brother's sons of the zamindar. It is the ryots that cleared the forest. It was relinquished by the ryots and his brother's sons were given patta.

(The witness filed a copy of the registered deed for this patta.)

Peddineni Krishniah of Anjaneyapuram hanged himself to death on account of the fact that his land in Patulur was appropriated by the zamindar. This was published in the *Vahini*. It was ordered that even Harijans could not get fuel from the forest. A fine of Rs. 2 was imposed. Peddineni Krishniah hanged himself in our village, twenty years back. I know it well. My age now is 52 years. It happened in our village to my knowledge. I can prove it. One tamarind tope was handed over by the zamindar to the son-in-law of his brother along with the pattas and well. The ryot protested against it. He was not pitied even. He was not shown any land in substitution. He could do nothing. He went to the well saying that he would drown himself and die. He jumped into the well crying 'Ranga Rao' and died. His name is Pothu Pullaiah.



There was an inquest held. The zamindar said that he had committed suicide and that he could do nothing. That land is about 2 acres in extent—badavabeedu. It costs about Rs. 500. The zamindar agreed that he paid nothing for it.

Nazrana is collected for new pattas up to Rs. 12. (He produced a copy of the patta and the name of Koti Butchayya for having renewed nazarana on 50 acres of land.) The zamindar has appropriated service inams also. A nazrana of Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 was collected on service inams also.

The zamindar came to our village, paths and donkas were ordered to be closed. I said that the employees were in the wrong. He went away with anger refusing to take the meals prepared for him. An unjust case was then instituted against me. A fine of Rs. 10 was imposed. (He filed the order of fine.) I was not fined by the court. He imposed it.

If there are cases for arbitrations both the sides have to pay Rs. 10 each. This is their order. I am filing the same. The service inams of Madiga and Vettis are also annexed. They have ceased to give service. We approached the Collector stating that the zamindar is annexing lands by force. The Collector ordered their restitution in 1903. But they were not returned up till now.

In Irakampalem there are no ryots at all. The whole extent of 1,500 acres is own cultivation. "Bazaar kist" also is collected. Even burial grounds are under own kamatam. There are proofs and records. I shall file them.

In Kommireddipalli-Yerukapadu, 5 acres of burial ground and 2 acres near 'Mekala pambu' were annexed. In the adangals of 1320 fasli this same land is noted as burial-ground. They give numbers. The land is still in their possession. It can be seen even in fasli 1322.

Devisetti Pullayya had been fined Rs. 90 for an alleged offence of felling trees in land No. 80. I have not got the receipts acres 3 and 35 cents of land 'makalapampu' was taken over as own kamatam land. Pullaiah sent Rs. 60. It was not accepted and he had to pay Rs. 90. I am filing the receipts. That is a big village ten, twenty years back most of the villagers migrated. I do not know the population of the village then.

There is no jamabandi in our villages. There is much trouble on account of joint pattas. They collide with some whom they like and collect the amount at their will and pleasure. Kistbandi is from October to January. This a difficulty for us as we have to pay without even getting the crops.

To a question put by the Chairman the witness said: The ryots cannot leave the land and go away after manuring, toiling and cultivating it. Anyhow they get their kist collected. These are mamuls (private tips) to be paid for patta transfer to the clerks and peons. For effecting a subdivision, Rs. 2 has to be paid.

To a question put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu the witness said: The zamindar incurs no expenses at all for a subdivision.

Our lands were surveyed. One acre and 12 cents is noted as 1 acre and 30 cents. It is not Government survey. We have got many objections for the survey.

Collection of taxes must be made by the Government or through panchatis. Some unjust taxes also are collected: 2 pies per rupee for 'masuldar' and 6 pies per rupee for "majundar." For inams they collect Re. 1 or Re. 1-1-6 for hard pipes and tank repairs. I am submitting the patta. Dry assessment is made cropwari. The wells in those lands were sunk by us. For tobacco it is Rs. 16, chillies Rs. 10, chollu Rs. 7 and 8 annas is collected on account of interest. It is in the patta itself. He filed patta.

To a question put by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu the witness said: Until 1900 kist was not collected cropwari. It is only after that that they are collecting like that. In Manepalli village there is a permanent rate even for cropwari kist. Vellanki Radhakrishnayya Garu filed a suit. It was favourable to him. Others have kept quiet like sanyasis. (He filed the judgment in this case.) I am filing records to show the enhancement of taxes in Hanumallanka. Even burial grounds were annexed. The land belonging to Kolli Veeraiah has been appropriated for himself. (He filed an order of the zamindar for the annexation of this land.)

Witness No. 261.

Madras.

20th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kolapragada Lakshminarasimha Rao, aged about 25 years, son of Jaggaraju Garu of Enamadala village, Vyyur estate, Kistna district.

I have got about 15 acres of land, 10 acres wet and 4 acres dry, in Bhattlavari village. Rates had been enhanced after fasli 1307. In fasli 1306 the rate for dry was from 10



annas to Rs. 1-14-3. For wet lands they enhanced the rates from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8. Zarib lands are assessed more. For dry cultivation the rate had been enhanced by from 10 annas to Rs. 3-8-0.

Kamatam lands are being increased in extent. All waste lands are being converted into own kamatam lands. They are entered in the accounts as kamatam. They leasing out for enhanced rents. He filed the dowle.

For dry land it increased from 8 annas to Rs. 3-12-0 and for wet land it rose from Rs. 5 to Rs. 12. The rate for jarib lands is Rs. 7-8-0. Previously there was no fresh tax. Now they are collecting Rs. 7 for the whole village. Now they are collecting about Rs. 2,500. They reserve under the Forest Act. Before that the jarini was a tank. For tobacco cultivation they collect Rs. 15 or Rs. 18. They used to grant remissions. Now no remissions are granted at all. Dry cultivation kist was being collected for jarib lands. The present Raja assessed it at Rs. 12. Maize crop has been taxed Rs. 6. For tobacco there is a rate of Rs. 25. No repairs are made to the tanks. They increase the taxes under the plea of having repaired the tanks. They were enhanced twenty years back. It remained so. He filed the old and new pattas and also for jarib. If we send petitions requesting repairs to tanks they say that they have carried out. The beds of the tanks have been converted into seris and given on pattas—

										ACS.
No. 79	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.85
No. 43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.83

Patta No. 90 Achan Krishnaiah had been granted.

No. 6 had been assessed at wet rate Rs. 2. No. 13 had been assessed at Rs. 2. They assess dry land under the wet head and thus enhance the rate in spite of petitions. I am filing the orders issued personally by the zamindar in the elections. The ryots have no liberty. An extent of 36 acres of land had been granted in the name of the rani at 8 annas. From others they collect nazranas. The tanks have been filled with sand from streams. The bank of Apparao tank had seven breaches in seven years. No repairs are carried out nor any remission is granted in spite of the fact that no water is retained in the tanks. Eighty cents of land in No. 243 cultivated, under that tank, and belonging to Ramakrishnaiah Garu, had been excavated. He was neither given remission nor any compensation. No other land was given to him instead.

There are Government lands in our village for which the rate is not more than Rs. 3-12-0 for wet.

No jamabandi is conducted. The new tank had been resurveyed. Thirty acres had been shown as 33. Now again it has been shown as 95 acres and 24 cents. It is not cultivable. The land is not yielding. We are undergoing all sorts of troubles. I am filing the zamindar's letter. I am filing the orders of the Diwan and Saristadar.

Under the jarib tank they collect taxes whether there is yield or not. Even though there is no supply of water from the tank no remission is granted.

I am filing pullari receipts, dated 1st March 1904. Then no pullari was collected. Now they are collecting as at their will and pleasure. We have to pay Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 to the officers. If we do not pay they do not give us remission. They are collecting from all—intelligent as well as unintelligent. They demand it by pressure if we refuse. He filed records to prove this. The surveyor is not working well. He passes a remark and strikes it off. Orders also were got passed. I am filing the same.

(A witness of yesterday filed some papers.)

Answering questions by the Zamindar: I have got 10 acres of wet land. I am paying taxes regularly. This year's are Rs. 40. If there is no remission I have to pay Rs. 120. Last year it was Rs. 15. There will not be arrears every year. There are arrears for 1346 and 1347. I was Government karnam hitherto. They dispensed with my services as I did not live in the village. There is no other cause. I am working on behalf of the ryots. There is a Congress Committee in our village. I am working on its behalf. There is record for land under the tank. There it is Vuracheruvu No. 2 account 79 demarcation 10 acres. After 29th May 1910, 7 acres and 17 cents, 80 patta Yakub Ali Sahib—poramboke. Vuracheruvu—it is written. There is an extent of 80 acres under that tank. When a patta was granted for that a mahazar was submitted then I was Government karnam. Zamindari karnam is separate. Ryots do not know that I knew just now.

*Enhancement of kists.*—In 1306 it was Re. 1-14-3; Re. 1-13-6; Re. 1-11-0. Now it is Rs. 3-8-0. For dry it is not more, it is less also. It is not true that dry kist is more. We cannot see it. Wet is now Rs. 12. In 1306 there was no wet.



By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—That means you know what happened before you were born. How can I know five years after? A.—I said as per accounts. There was jarib then. For tobacco under the tank the rate in 1910 was Rs. 17. The same was converted into wēt as jarib was not faring well. Then dry was assessed at Re. 1. In dowlu it is not Rs. 12. Tank 5 is different from this. I did not say about enhanced taxation without knowledge. We did it after this committee was appointed. I began working for the ryots after the advent of the Congress Ministry, not before that. I am doing the same for the last two years.

(Another witness spoke in English.)

Witness No. 264.

Madras.

21st April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kotagiri Jagannatha Rayanimgar, son of Appayya Garu, aged 77 years, Kampalagudem East estate, Tiruvur taluk, Kistna district.

The witness presented a memorandum and said: What I want to say is written in that. I am acting on behalf of my niece from 1888. Repairs were made. Her daughter was given to me in marriage. Afterwards my adopted son took his share. I repaired the tanks with at an expense of one lakh and ninety-one thousand for ten old tanks. There are about six or eight new canals. There are river canals and canals dug by us. Until 1346 fasli the total income was Rs. 48,192-12-5. We bought another village.

Peshkash Rs. 2,165-6-4; establishment Rs. 4,889-9-4; road fund Rs. 4,218-10-0; forest Rs. 922-14-7; dry lands extent Rs. 16,000.

	ACS.
Cultivation in 1346 fasli ... ..	1,010
Pattabandi ... ..	6,683

We had cultivated more than 3,000 acres. The rates until the Act was put into force in 1908 were for dry 4 annas to As. 5-6; for wet, 4 annas to 14 annas. For jarib Rs. 6 to Rs. 19. We did not enhance dry a pie from 1900. For the last thirty years there is a uniform rate. Before the Act we increased a part. We had a survey conducted and had noted only a little more than actual. We carried out more repairs afterwards. (The witness filed documents regarding tank repairs and the prevalent rates.)

The increase in the area from 1316 to 1346 fasli is 1,549 acres 46 cents. There are no Government lands adjacent to ours. There are Government inams. We had our estate surveyed twice. Once in 1307-1310 fasli and a second time in 1340 fasli. Stones were laid. It is a private survey. I do not know the names of the officers.

	RS.
Pulledu Chen 1307 fasli .. ..	3
Chittela village 1341 .. ..	39

These are lies. We reduced as per former rate. I do not know where is what you refer to. There are accounts for Chittela village.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Yerukupadu patta was given to Manukonda Venkaiah for eight years. In 1310 fasli Rs. 7; Rs. 3; Rs. 10; Rs. 11; Rs. 39; this is true. It was perhaps due to the inclusion of banjars.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN: Mallela village is in our estate. There are no communal lands there; in Chittela there are. Five, six people have divided it. It is under Jagannadha Sagaram. We collected Rs. 1,500 from the ryots and got it repaired. It is in Rs. 14 rate. In Mallela seris were taken and cultivated. We gave Rs. 20 without nazrana. All the res are Rs. 4, Rs. 6, Rs. 10.

Q.—What is the arrangement for cattle grazing? A.—Part is reserve and part is unreserved. We issue chits at 4 annas per head per year. There was no time when no pullari was collected. There is a court decree in 1910 that the forests should not be entered.

Filed judgment.

Masuldari for Re. 1 .. ..	2 pies.
Majumdari for Re. 1 .. ..	6 pies.



These were being collected for a long time. There is no cropwari rate together with dry assessment. Planwari the rate for jarib lands is for chillis Rs. 7; tobacco Rs. 10; maize Rs. 8. In Gampalagudem there is a rate of Rs. 10. For those lands where wells were sunk of late there is nothing. Before that it was Rs. 12.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Dry land was at first jarib and then it turned into cropwari. Is it so? A.—We did not annex any lands of the ryots for own kamatam. That has been for a long time dry 1,389 acres, wet 306 acres. Ours are 111 villages and we bought one more.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Have you annexed pathways? A.—New ones have been opened. The old ones were not closed. There are plans. I did not get them now. I shall get them. It is for that they sent a report to the Collector. It was enquired into but was not proved. At the time of the Collector's inspection there was no breach. They filed a petition with the Sub-Collector alleging that chits were not issued. That is a lie. There are 66 chits. They have been quarrelling from January. We are issuing chits for unreserve, but not in reserve. Five hundred acres is reserve and 400 acres is unreserve.

Q.—Have you assessed newly cultivated lands at more than Rs. 12 rate? A.—There is land under Jagannatha Sagaram which gives good crop.

Answering Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu : Originally there was share system except a portion. Jarib kist was according to gardens and extent. It is less than survey rate. I shall produce the accounts if you want.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jagayya Pantulu : In Lakshmipuram the rate was Rs. 5-8-0 from 1307 to Rs. 10 for inams. We changed the term and increased it to Rs. 11. It was agreed upon by both of us in a compromise. It is true that the dowlu in the village was Rs. 540-2-0 in 1278; 1,933 in 1307 and 6,436 in 1342. It may for wet and dry together and a part of the forest was cleared. Banjars were brought under cultivation. There are accounts for that and the witness showed accounts.

The burial ground in Yerukupadu had not been leased out. Is it burial grounds that we have to lease out. Filed A registers. Two acres is still used for the purpose. It can be seen in the registers.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : In Lakshmipuram in 1278 it was Rs. 450. There was no measurement of land, extent cannot be seen. Extent of cultivation can be seen.

The witness showed from accounts what was spent till 1342 on irrigation works. We spent Rs. 13,362. There were four tanks now where there were only two before. Previously there was share system half and half. All expenses to be borne by the ryot. From 1302 it was changed to cash payment. Cost was not calculated. Approximate rate was fixed with the consent of the ryots. I know Kolli Butchayya who gave evidence yesterday. He has 400 acres of dry and 125 acres of wet land in Chittela. He has given part for rent and part for share of crop. There are no other papers but there are sale deeds. He bought at Rs. 600. The rate for that is Rs. 12. Kolli Butchayya is not on good terms with the estate. His father is our servant. Son also was on Rs. 10. We removed him from some service on account of the bad reports received against him.

Filed registered cowle of K. Butchayya showing the rates. Forty-seven acres and three cents is in fathers name+13-17. Now it has become 130 dry and 65 wet. This was all earned after the regime of the father. That is to say, he bought it from out of the profits. He has got cash Rs. 2,00,000. He is a money-lender and deals in lands also. The whole is earned by lands alone. To say that the taxes are high is not true.

Answering Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu : He began money-lending business only after taking away his share of property from the father. It was thirty years ago. Rupees 4,000 was divided. Then the price of land was low. What all I earned was spent for repairs. I spent Rs. 14,000 on my estate to create facilities for the ryots. We bought a village with surplus income from the estate only.

Q.—As Butchayya did? A.—I saved without building castles in the air much was spent for sluices. There is a compound wall for his and brother's tobacco field.

Q.—Was the pathway closed when the Collector came there? A.—No. The Collector did not ask us to remove it. He did not say that it was not a pathway. He did not say that it was in the old field book. He said it was in the plan and that it was a path only.



Q.—Why did you dig a pit across it? A.—They all created a hubbub. It is not a way for cattle to pass. In the plan it is not shown as if for use by cattle. It is written there that it is a footpath. How can it be for cattle. How can cattle pass along a footpath.

Answering the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : In rainy season we grow paddy. We do not allow cattle there, lest they should eat it. The land is own kamatam.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : There is no own cultivation in Lakshmi-puram. You can see the ayacut accounts. The Collector registered them as own kamatam and it was assessed at Rs. 12. The ryots paid nothing for these repairs. We did the repairs ourselves. For new tank we collected Rs. 750; we gave 10 acres for usufruct for ten years in lieu of interest on condition that the original should be paid. (Filed papers regarding tank.) For red tank Rs. 1,500 (papers filed). We gave it at Rs. 14 rate. There was competition to have it.

Replying to questions put by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu : This year also we are getting them repaired. It costed Rs. 400, Rs. 500 for the whole estate. The estimate for Rs. 2,000. I did not get the budget. There is last year's budget. I shall file the same. It is for the tanks only not for all. There is no engineer. On wet it is Rs. 21,641. There is not even one officer. We are getting it done ourselves. For big works we get somebody.

In reply to Mr. B. Venkatachalam Pillai : I visit every village munsif. Earth work is not needed every year. Bunds are repaired once in seven or eight years. After the hurricane we repaired them in 1926. There are no repairs to the tank in Lakshmipuram. Collection of pullari was in vogue from the beginning. There is a court decision of 1902. There may be previous accounts. I do not know what is not in records. It cannot be found in accounts nor in demands. It can be shown as not existing from the beginning.

In reply to questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : We filed the records in the suit. That is why that judgment was delivered. Chits and records were filed. For collections in the estate there are tanadars and samuddars. They inspect the tanks and report. After that we inspect and get them repaired. No engineer is required for the repairs to tanks. One clerk is enough to look after levelling work.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Can you file the reports of the clerks? A.—It is not possible to file records fifty years old.

Questioned by the CHAIRMAN : There are accounts for Rs. 1,91,000. I have filed the statement from 1289-1346. There is tank repairs chitta for three, four years.

Witness No. 266.

Madras.

22nd April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Koka Subba Rao, the Diwan of Pithapuram, East Godavari district.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Take your statement about grouping of villages. Is Vepur soil alluvial. Is not the whole village sandy soil? A.—Wet cultivation for decade.

Q.—Is it not sandy soil? A.—I beg to differ.

Q.—Gorripudi is a village of group I. Is it not a submersion village? Is it wet or dry? A.—It is neither entirely dry nor wet. There are both.

Q.—Are not all rich crops that are raised in group I villages. They plant cane and betel. Is it not? A.—I do not know personally. But there are dry and wet lands mixed.

Q.—Do you know how many betel gardens are there in group I villages? A.—In some villages there are.

Q.—Is it not an occasional crop? A.—In some villages it is planted only now and then.

Q.—Can you give out the names of the villages? A.—I cannot exactly say. In some villages it is on a small scale.

Q.—In what villages? Can you say? A.—I cannot say clearly.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Is it planted in the 56 villages? A.—I cannot say exactly.



Q.—Betel is planted in plots of not more than 10 cents? A.—It is not planted in plots of more than 10 cents. Now and then they plant a little. If not in all, in some villages they grow.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Of the 56 villages, in how many do they grow? There was no betel crop for the last twelve years in Medapadu, Kandulapaka and Velangi villages. Is it so? A.—Perhaps they are not planting owing to the fall of prices. I can say that they cultivate now and then. Information has to be gathered about some villages.

Q.—Do they plant it in Velangi? A.—There also it is grown now and then.

Q.—In Chellus is it cultivated? A.—In all villages it is cultivated occasionally.

Q.—Are there floods every year in Pandalapaka Velangi, Medakuduru, Kovur and Medapadu? Does not the Government grant remission every year? A.—There will be no floods every year.

Q.—Is not salt produced in the following villages: Gornepadu, Sila, Pemuru, Chalavarru, Turigodu and Penuguduru? A.—There are no villages where salt can be manufactured in our estate. If there were, we would have manufactured. In some parts there may be saline, saltish soil, but that changes and becomes good when silt is deposited by the overflow of the river.

Q.—Chidiga, Vuppada, Cocanada, Bhimavaram, Viravaram, all these are in group I. Is paddy and sugarcane cultivated? A.—In each they plant paddy in two or three hundred acres of land. Here and there they grow sugarcane.

Q.—Is it grown in all holdings? A.—I told you already that it is not in the whole village. There is no doubt about it. To our common knowledge they grow it now and then.

Q.—Is it only in 9 out of 56 villages that it is cultivated? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Is there dry land also in the villages? A.—All is not wet. There will be some dry and it seems to be the case with all villages.

Q.—Is not Tadi village dry—a major portion of it? A.—Part dry and part wet. All is not wet nor is it all dry.

Q.—Is not rice crop large in Jegurupadu and Dula? A.—Rice is cultivated in all the villages where there is a supply of anicut water—in a big or small scale.

Q.—Is it more than half or less than half? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Is there collection of water-cess? A.—We collect water-cess on the scale prevalent in Government villages.

Q.—Can you say how many acres of sugarcane is planted every year in these 56 villages? A.—I cannot say even approximately. This is not constant any where. They grow it once in two or three years. It is always varying. The same is the case in Government villages also.

Q.—Of these 56 villages is it cultivated in Ramachandrapuram? A.—Yes, about two or three hundred. I cannot say unless I see the accounts. It can be found in ayacut, sagubadi account. There is wet and dry in every village.

Q.—What is the extent of Gornipadu? A.—It cannot be said unless it is surveyed.

Q.—Is there an average crop of four bags per acre? A.—It will be five or six bags.

Q.—The yield in Chalapaka is not more than four bags. Is it not? A.—The yield may be five or six bags I cannot definitely say.

Q.—In Chollangipeta? A.—It cannot be known unless statistics are prepared. If you want I shall get them prepared.

Q.—What is the average yield in the villages? A.—Not more than two or three bags.

Q.—Will it be five or six bags? A.—It will not be.

Q.—In Chollangi? A.—It is in the same scale. It is the same in all villages where there is supply of Godavari water.

Q.—In Achyuta Atneyapuram? A.—I cannot say by mere guess-work.

Q.—In Chidigi village? A.—I told you before. For a long time it has been like that.

Q.—Is water-supply good? A.—It is good. I think the average rent is very reasonable.

Q.—If there is an average yield of five or six bags are the collections just? A.—It may be high in some cases and low in others. It is on average just.

Q.—Are plaintain gardens raised in these nine villages? A.—They plant it where it is necessary. It is being cultivated in many villages.



Q.—Is the extent of cultivating the same more than half in these villages? A.—It is more than half.

Q.—In what villages? A.—In every village they plant it on a small or big scale. I think it is grown by all in Jegupeta, Doclla, Viravaram, Medapadu, Pandalapaka and Velangi and also in Kovur, Cherla, Vuyyur, Bhimavaram, Mellela Doddi.

Q.—Is it grown in all villages? A.—On a big or small scale it is cultivated.

Q.—Is it for house-consumption? A.—It is for crop purposes. For house-consumption every house has some plants in the yard.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Will it be more than 25 cents in any holding? A.—Usually it will not be more than that I have not got the actual statistics.

Q.—Can you prepare cropvari accounts and file it for general information? A.—I shall get it prepared and file.

Q.—What will be the percentage? A.—It is very low when compared with the paddy-crop.

Q.—One or two per cent? A.—Even in Government villages it will be like that. I cannot say what the percentage will be.

Q.—On what depend the high rates? A.—We take into consideration, in fixing the rate, the good crop, fruit trees, fertility of the soil, water facilities for irrigation all these.

Q.—Is there vantuvvari system in vogue? A.—It is not now in force.

Q.—Is settlement made in all your villages? A.—Settlement was made after the record of rights was prepared. For many villages it has been completed.

Q.—Was there settlement for Patalagadda? A.—Vantuvvari system is in use in some villages.

Q.—Can you say what the yield in Yenuguduru is? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Was it enhanced during vantuvvari system? A.—It is the last vantuvvari system that is in force now. Vantuvvari means challenging system. This system was in use previously. Last vantuvvari rate is now in vogue. It was discontinued after the Court of Wards came into possession.

Q.—When was the vantuvvari system first introduced? A.—I cannot say. It was there for a long time. It is not applied to all holdings, it is in use in some cases only. There was no charge in rents for the last seventy years.

Q.—Is it prevalent in all the villages? A.—I do not think in every village. It is only in some villages. I shall prepare a statement as per the available records and file it.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Is water-cess excluded in the rates you have given? A.—For deltas we have given consolidated rates. Water-tax is not included. For other we have included.

Q.—Is group I whole, wet or dry land? A.—It is called mamul wet. It is then noted dry-wet and dry.

Q.—Are these villages under canal irrigation? A.—These are all delta villages. Group I are all wet cultivated villages.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Is there water-rate? A.—Water-rate is not included in the usual rate. Consolidate rate is shown.

Q.—Are there two or three thousand acres of dry-wet lands in Chelluru? A.—I submitted that in this group all are mamul wet.

Q.—Of the 56 villages, which are wet? A.—As all villages are being cultivated by canal water we have been charging the same rate for a long time.

Q.—Do you charge water-rate also? A.—For some we do.

Q.—Do you charge for mamul wet also? A.—Mamul wet also is assessed in some cases.

Q.—What is the highest rate in your villages? A.—It is Rs. 40 not more than that.

Group I are mamul wet lands.

Group II are dry-wet lands.

Group III are dry lands.

It is like that in Government lands.

Q.—What is the maximum rate? A.—Rs. 40.

Q.—Is there a rate of Rs. 64 in Chellur? A.—I do not know.



Q.—Is there Rs. 52? A.—Our accounts do not show any rate which is more than Rs. 40. I shall see the accounts and let you know.

Q.—Is not the soil of Chelluru, Ganganapalli sandy? A.—There are more wet lands. There are group 1 villages.

Q.—Was there settlement for villages? A.—I told you that only one village is settled among these.

Q.—Was enhanced-tax imposed on group I villages? A.—It was imposed on all holdings in all villages for the last twenty years. Suits were filed. There are suits contested, and suits decreed ex parte. We have obtained decrees for some. In cases where there was contest 2 annas more is being collected. Some suits were settled by compromise. We are collecting As. 1-6 in some villages. In some As. 1-3 is being collected. In some villages it was collected in three years at 6 pies per year. There are many cases in which a decision was given at 2 annas. There are decrees at As. 1-6. Some are still pending. In Samalkot a rate of As. 1-6 is imposed.

Q.—Had the Samalkot people gone to the High Court? A.—Yes, they approached the High Court. A decree was given for As. 1-6 rate. The High Court delivered a judgment fixing the rate at not more than As. 1-6 never to be enhanced.

Q.—Are you not collecting As. 1-6 from those who filed suits and 2 annas from others? A.—In 90 per cent cases we are collecting 2 annas according to the decree. From these who have a decree from the High Court we are collecting only As. 1-6.

Q.—Do you collect cesses also? A.—If there is a decree we are collecting.

Q.—Will it not be better if the enhancement is made by the Government or the Revenue department? A.—Any way it is better. Now it is being done through courts or by compromise. It is better if either the Government or the Revenue Department does it. We also wish it. We shall certainly follow.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—What is the price of land in Tayyeru village? A.—Sale price is noted in registered documents. I do not know more than that. I am filing the copies of sale deeds and lease deeds. I do not know what took place in that affair.

Q.—In all how many suits were filed by the estate? A.—Not one pie was collected towards costs in enhancement suits. Even though the courts provided we did not collect, even after the decrees were null and void. We are not executing the decrees in deference to the wishes of the ryots but we did not write them off. It was not brought under demand at all. For three years we had not been filing execution petitions. We are taking no action at all as per the orders of the Maharaja. Legislation provides for filing of suits.

Q.—Are you collecting? A.—We are not as far as my knowledge goes.

Q.—Did you collect in the case of Akella Suryanarayana? A.—I have already submitted that we have collected in some cases. I do not know about this case. Whatever was not abandoned will be there.

Q.—What income did the estate receive on account of the enhancement? A.—Fifty or sixty thousand might have been received.

Q.—By suits? A.—Rupees fifty or rupees sixty thousands was collected. The question of expenses also was one of the issues and findings were given on the same.

Q.—In faslis 1341, 1342, 1343 and 1344? A.—There are findings of the Court on this issue.

Q.—When did the prices fall down? A.—There are Government accounts. There is surely a change from the rates of 1929. There was depression over the whole world. The prices of articles have come down much. There are issues in the court suits about all these things.

Q.—When you wanted to enhance taxes, did you give it up in the depression? A.—It was suspended until fasli 1340.

Q.—Did you file suits of late? A.—I cannot say exactly.

Q.—When was the re-settlement in Gdoavari district made? A.—I cannot say.

Q.—How did you fix the prices? A.—According to law and according to the condition prevailing then. The judgment was delivered in accordance with the provision in Estates Land Act.

Q.—How is that faring? A.—You know it better.



By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Is there estimate for maintenance charges to the tanks? Is there a department for that? Are there registers? A.—There are servants called taskars. There are tanedar and overseer. They look after that work. Majumdar and other village servants will be strengthening the bunds. There are establishments for some tanks, not for all.

Q.—Is there ayacut register for every tank. A.—Yes there is. This was all investigated in the Court of Wards. They showed certain numbers in the ayacut. The ayacut register was prepared for most parts of the villages after the advent of the records of right. There are irrigation services. The officers did it after investigation and according to area. There are panchayatdars or leaders for water divisions in some villages. These are selected by the villagers.

Q.—Does the estate do it or do they grant it afterwards. (Pay back.)? A.—The ryots make the arrangement among themselves. They look after the division of water. They have got mamuls or custom.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Is the panchayat established by all people in the estate together? A.—Every village has a list which is with the karnam in his office. Usually the water division system is known to everybody. They look after and do it themselves. They do not employ people for watering. The work of strengthening bunds, etc., is looked after by the estate. The village munsifs and karnams look after that. For big tanks like the Mallavaram tank there are watchers, not for others. In other villages the ryots themselves divide. I shall file the list. There are mamuls in every village. Every ryot knows them. They effect the division. There are no quarrels. If there is any trouble the estate interferes and settles it. Even the estate does not break the mamuls. There will be maintenance charge every year for every tank either a small or a big amount. All necessary periodical repairs are carried out by the estate. If it is necessary we do it once in four or five years or ten years. It depends upon the needs of the tank.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—If more water is used by lands in the same ayacut do you charge more or do you impose penal tax? A.—If we think it just we impose it in some cases. It is better to increase the capacity without breaking the custom or mamul.

Q.—Do the ryots think that these lands are very useful? A.—They do it now and then if there is no break in the mamul.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Do you issue notices to other ryots? A.—We are not giving notices. We increase the ayacut after consideration.

Q.—Is not the increase in ayacut a loss to the ryots? A.—If we increase the capacity we see that other ryots are in no way adversely affected by it. We will do it if there is provision.

Q.—Do all the ryots know it? A.—Is there any one in the world who does not know as long as there are people like you. There are people here and there who know. The chairman called the witness to order.

Q.—What is the ayacut of Panduru tank? A.—I shall file.

Q.—Was it repaired? A.—We spent a large amount for its repairs. Some thousands was spent. We do repair it when necessary.

Q.—What is the increase in the ayacut in the twenty years? A.—I cannot say unless I see the ayacut accounts.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—What did you spend for repairs. A.—I cannot say unless I see the accounts—not even approximately.

Q.—What do you spend for year? A.—We spend more than Rs. 39,000 on capital works in Pittapur estate. Under extraordinary circumstances we then and there get it repaired by spending money.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Is there sufficient water in Jagayya Cheruvu ayacut? A.—There will be water even for a second crop.

Q.—Are plantain plantations watered by breaches? A.—Nominally it is no crop but water is necessity for it. In the normal course there will be no water even in November.

Q.—For how many years had you been doing like this? A.—We have been doing it from the time of the late Maharaja.



Q.—Were you collecting cropwari tax even from that time? A.—We auction the crop and give it to the successful bidder. If you want I shall file the list.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Is the Government doing like that? A.—They sow and if it yields they have it themselves. There is no share in that.

Q.—Is there auction of grass? A.—If it is profitable they auction it.

Q.—How is grass divided among the villagers? A.—Panchayats are appointed in the villages for the purpose. They bid at auctions for Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 30 or Rs. 40. They give it to the ryots and collect money from them like the panchayat boards. The surplus is added to the village common fund. Even in the case of fish the same procedure is followed. They do it themselves and there are no differences.

Then the witness was examined by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar in English.

To questions by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu the witness said : There are amarakam (lease) registers. There are wells in the lands. The amount in the cowles is not constant. I do not know that matter. Kattubadi is not constant and same. It may increase or decrease. It depends upon the financial stringency. There is less kattubandi for land that is repaired. It depends upon the prices. I cannot say whether it was leased out after repairs or before. Generally they pay five bags of paddy per acre. I have no personal knowledge of it.

Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—In Munakallanka there is Rs. 232 rate. The arrears run up to thirty thousand. For one village the arrears list is up to thirty or forty thousand. Most people do not pay—not because they are unable to pay but some people there are who do not pay for the sake of not paying at all.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : There will be no arrears in Government villages. Every year's kist is collected in that year.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : My lands are all sandy waste. Delta land is only about 70, 80 acres. There is an extent of three or four hundred acres which not under delta. Income is little. It is all sandy and saltish soil. It was got in accordance with a decree. I am trying to make it cultivable by approaching the Public Works Department and bounding it. I have got more waste lands. It is not true to say that I have got 1,000 acres. My income from lands is Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 1,000. Assessment is Rs. 2,000. I am spending with the hope that it will be profitable if brought under cultivation by repairs.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : The income derived from low level islands is always fluctuating. We have got palmyra tax in our estate. We collect tax on palmyra trees. The trees belong to the estate. They pay tax for enjoying the fruits. We have been collecting education tax from 1883. The rate is as it is in the Government.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU he said : We are collecting palmyra tax only from those who had not obtained court decrees. In some cases it was pronounced as unjust. In others the ryots were asked to pay it. They are not prevalent in some circumstances. We are not collecting the rate after the judgment is delivered. We do act according to the judgment. I cannot say how much we are collecting under this head. I shall get villagewar accounts prepared and file them.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram the witness said : We are not interfering in the holdings now except to put into force what was done by the late Maharaja. We had been collecting it for 100 years before the advent of the Estates Land Act. Pattas are granted for trees.

Questioned by Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : We auction the trees in the pathways (puntas). We had been selling every year by auction the trees in the estate jirayati lands for the last forty or fifty years. We grant them to ryots if they want. I shall file the accounts if you require. I cannot say for how much it was auctioned in Tondangi village. I do not know for how much the Jambal trees were struck off.

We sold all the trees in Mallam village. We might have made about three or four thousands. I can assert that we did not get ten thousand. We sold them away two or three months back, not apprehending any changes in the New Act. But they were sold only after the enquiry was instituted. We had been selling trees by auction for the last 100 years.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu the witness said : There are joint pattas. We are trying to separate them as far as it is possible. I shall prepare a list.

To questions by the Chairman : There was no enhancement from 1908. The estate filed suits. Two annas more has been imposed. In some cases there was compromise. Others were decreed. Even though there was a decree we collected only As. 1-6.



There are 128 villages in our estate. Polavaram was bought in auction as the result of a decree. The Raja's sons are administering them. Palinela, Anantavaram Agency Viravaram, these are in the management of the sons. Polavaram was bought in 1920 in auction for sixteen lakhs. Vantuvaridi system is challenging system. It is to give it to those who agree to pay the highest amount in the bid. There is no security of holding in this.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : I cannot say how many attachments were made. I shall get a list prepared and file it. I shall prepare a list of all the auctions and attachments made in the interval between the declaration of the Monitorium and the passing of the Debt Relief Act.

By the CHAIRMAN : By the Debt Relief two or three lakhs of rupees due to the estate had to be written off.

Replying to Mr. M. Pallam Raju the witness said : We did not get dug a small tank in a big tank at any place.

Witness No. 268.

Madras.

23rd April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Chivukula Soma Sastri, son of Krishniah, Inamdar and Cultivator, Madanur, Ongole taluk, Guntur district, Venkatagiri estate.**

I am ryot in the Venkatagiri Estate. I have sent a signed memorandum. The rates of assessment are high. There are penal taxes collected. No water-supply, etc. No remissions. I have got 9 acres of koru land in this estate. Koru land means patta land. We have got a cropwari assessment also in our villages. For sajja, javari and chemadumpa, the rate is Rs. 5-8-0 per acre. For turmeric and betels, the rate is Rs. 68-8-0. For wet crops, the rate is Rs. 1-14-0. For dry land, the term kist ranges from As. 8-6 to As. 14-6. Sandy soil lands have a rate ranging from Rs. 5-8-0 to Rs. 9-8-0. Garden lands are to be cultivated by pits. The ryot has to manure and repair them. The rate is Rs. 14-8-0 per acre. From the ditta of 1290 fasli there seems to be a rate of Rs. 2 for some land and Rs. 1-5-4 for others. The zamindar is collecting Rs. 550 from issuing chits for cattle-grazing. For 316 acres of garden lands they are now collecting up to Rs. 7,000 for the same extent. Before the survey it might have been less by 20 acres. There is Goshpara on this. There is no connexion between the originally prevailing rate and the patta rate. It may be more by two or three gorru as per survey. There are no waste lands adjoining.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he answered : In accounts it is as 136 gorlu. A gorru is equal to 3 acres 12 cents. The rate then for dry per gorru was Rs. 4-8-0 for first term, Rs. 3-10-6 for second term, Rs. 3-4-6 for third and Rs. 1-14-6 for fourth. This was for dry lands before fasli 1290. Now it is about Rs. 7. For gardens the present rate is from Rs. 35 to Rs. 70. There are three kinds of rates. Moreover they have imposed another condition. They asked us to cultivate turmeric in all the lands in three years and said that if we do not do so we have to pay cess at the turmeric rate. Garden lands are cultivated by pits with lifts to bring out water. They have imposed such conditions which are most troublesome to the ryots instead of useful ones. There is one patta for each of the following villages, namely, Ethamukkala Rajupalem, Somavarapupadu and Madanur. We presented to the zamindar that such unjust taxes must be removed. But he did not listen. We filed a suit in the Ongole Joint Magistrate's Court. There is a breach of our right when the condition of tilling and sowing in time has been removed in accordance with the sixth condition. They have assessed second crop in wet lands. There are decisions of the Collector, District Court and High Court against such collection. They claimed the trees that were in the patta lands, as their own after the advent of the Act. In a suit in the District Court this was decided in favour of the ryots. For chema and turmeric plantations we usually grow hedges round about. It is called kara land. There was no tax for that before. It is about 400 acres in extent in our four or five villages. Now they are collecting tax on those lands. They have measured the hedged land (kara) and granted pattas for it. Garden kattuvass are dependent upon rain. At As. 1-8 it amounts to Rs. 500 in our four or five villages. That they have imposed on us is proved by this document and these pattas. They are trying to collect the kist, due from a man who does not pay, from one who pays on a joint patta 136 acres in extent with 36 joint pattadars. There were separate pattas before. Suits were filed. There was contest. A decision to the effect was given that there were separate pattas then. This is the order converting separate pattas into joint pattas. I am filing (files it). Somavarappadu fallow land, 19, 20 number was granted on separate pattas for 35 ryots before the survey. There are the names of the 35 ryots. The kist they had to pay can be seen in this.



Questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : Q.—Please read some names in the patta. A.—Nallapareddi Rami Reddi, Jala Reddi. The ryots refused to have joint pattas. Ex parte decree was given twice. The judgment was in favour of the ryot. They applied for a public copy which is not received up till now. This is a private copy (files it). Even to-day there are joint pattas. Before the survey there were separate pattas. This is a patta (files it). For turmeric, betels and sugarcane the rate is Rs. 18-12-0 for gorru. For indigo, limes, it is Rs. 6-4-0 per gorru. The ryots are the same now and then. In fasli 1338 the previous conditions were changed and new conditions were imposed. Wet lands were cultivated before from the overflow of the stream. When the Buckingham canal was opened, the water-supply was cut off. There is no water-supply. The canal was opened forty years back. Still wet rates are being collected. Suits were filed requesting orders to collect dry rates. It is Rs. 30 for gorru. The ryots wanted Rs. 4 to be collected. There was compromise in the court. But the zamindar did not put the order into force. This order was granted for the whole village. Twenty ryots entered into a compromise. In 1934 they said that they had given order for three villages jointly. They are showing arrears from twenty ryots. They are not collecting as per the accounts. The village karnam says that the accounts are not changed. In the account it seems to have been 34 and odd in fasli 1290. This is how they are collecting increased tax on garden lands.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Did they enhance it without any cause? A.—For heads of the villages they have reduced the kist by 25 per cent saying that the land is not good. They have been granted wet land at lower rates. It can be seen from the accounts that three or four influential ryots of the village had been granted at 25 per cent less than the usual rate. There were no accounts before. It can be seen from the Goshpara and from the natural rates account book. Now the demand is twenty thousands.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—How are the rates? A.—The present rates for garden lands is Rs. 5-6-11 for some crops like jawari, greengram, etc. In Madanur, Ethamukkala, Somavarappadu villages, for betel plantations, they are collecting Rs. 63-9-0. There seems to have been rate Rs. 16 prevailing before. This is for 49 $\frac{3}{4}$  kuntas. There is no change in that rate. Previous rate for kunta for turmeric was Rs. 8-6-0; now it is Rs. 34-12-6. The rate for paddy, chema, jawari, etc., is As. 12-6. There was no rate before. For dry cultivation it was Rs. 4-5-3 per acre. Previously it was up to Rs. 1-5-8. There are rates, depending on the nature, prevalent before fasli 1290. Ryotwari rate per acre was Rs. 1-4-0. They said that it was less in Kottapatnam, Alluru and other villages due to the ryots having their own doruvus (pits). For us it is Rs. 34-12-0. For our betel gardens the rate is Rs. 70. In Vagaru it is up to Rs. 9. Kottapatnam rates are from 3 annas to Re. 1 as per the Government accounts. There is the right of asking for remission in the Act, though it is not in the contract. This is the judgment of the Sub-Collector. I am filing that (files it). The zamindar has annexed the properties of the charitable institutions. Before 1909 there was a tope called the Velagalagunta tope (tamarind trees). We know by experience that it was always for public use. These things may be found in the Raja's accounts (reading from some document). They do not show in their accounts palmyra plantations, mogali trees, charitable gardens and pits or kuntas. This is an old dittam of Ethamukkala village. This was written by karnams discharged long ago. We got hold of it. This was a grant to Rameswara Dev by Minister Timmarasu on behalf of Ragalavaru. There is an inscription also. But now the income is not used for the temple. Only about Rs. 200 is given freely but the income is not used. The Raja is now the trustee. He comes to that place on the Mahasivarathri day and never more. This is inscription given for Madanur. The boundaries are also noted in the inscription. Kasuri means default kist. They are collecting it from us at Rs. 35, if we do not cultivate the crop fixed by them for three years. There is no sort of supply for the ponds. They help the wet cultivators by deducting the cost of seedlings (naru) from the kist payable. There is no supply at all to the garden lands. We are requesting help for improving water-supply to the ponds. Long before there was supply from the Musi stream. After the opening of the Buckingham Canal it was cut off. Canals were filled up. If the Vutu canal is repaired and stream water is directed there will be plenty of supply. We feel it very difficult as we have to cultivate with water that oozes out in the ponds. We have sent petitions to the Raja requesting him to arrange to supply the stream water.

To questions put by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar in English the witness replied in Telugu as follows :—

Receipts are Rs. 8 per acre.

The cowles must be given for five years. If not, we will do it every year.

There is no permanent rent fixed, if it is given like that we do not find any loss.



Q.—What do you think will be just amarakam? A.—We pay the land-cess. Hay is taken by the ryot. If he agrees to pay the kist, we do not mind even if the ryot is permanent.

To questions put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness answered as follows :—

We have got ten gorru of land. We are three brothers of a joint family. We pay to the estate a kist of Rs. 25. There is no patta in my name. They did not grant one though I requested them several times. They sent petitions. There are no copies of them with me. We did not send the petition by registered post. We asked for it but we never received patta. We ask the revenue inspector and karnam for the same. They say that it had not been received from the Huzur. We lease out our lands to the ryots. The hay and half the produce are appropriated by the ryot. I pay the kist and receive the remaining half of the produce. The price of lands is very low there. There are no purchasers now. There were sales one or two years before. But I did not get then. There were sales this year also. They are not purchasing for cash but they are being taken in discharge of debts. Dry is about Rs. 100, Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 per gorru. As there is no source of water-supply, wet also is in the same rate. Hedge lands also belong to the estate. They are attached to banjar lands. We occupied them. There was a survey conducted in fasli 1326. They had been charging us and collecting it from 1304. In filing the dittam register to show that it had not been collected before. For all lands pattas were given like this. It will be evident from the register now filed that no kist was collected before for the hedge-lands. We got them from the houses of dead and dismissed karnams. We did not file a petition to the Hindu Religious Endowments Board about the land belonging to the temple. It was said that it was impossible. Now I cannot show any record now as for its being a charitable garden. I can say from our experience but there are no accounts. The tamarind tope along with the choultry in it was sold in auction. There are no papers with us except words. In our lands turmeric is the only crop that is grown. There is a judgment of the Collector laying down that no kist should be collected for second crops like small greengram, etc.

Witness No. 271.

Madras.

23rd April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. G. Munuswami Chetti, Secretary, Kangundi Zamin Ryots' Association, Kangundi.**

Yesterday our president was speaking about the zamindari. That matter is in this book (presented book). The zamindari ryots are experiencing much trouble on account of the forest. The ryots are in a very poor state. The cause of these troubles is nothing but the zamindari system. If the condition of the zamindari ryots is to be bettered, the zamindar's authority should be abolished. So this meeting resolves that the zamindari system should be abolished by the Madras Government (read the resolution), dated 25th July 1937, proposed by Sri M. Anantasayanam Ayyangar, M.L.A., seconded by Sri D. Srinivasa Ayyangar, president V. Ramadas Pantulu Garu. The witness filed an agreement entered into by the zamindar and the ryots regarding the customary right of villagers to get fuel, etc., from the forest (read the contract). It is written there that inamdars also could graze their cattle. The present Forest Act came into force in 1931. It brought with it many troubles.

Answering Mr. M. Pallam Raju he said : All is reserve, there are no communal lands. This applies to the whole estate. It is not sufficient even if what there are already given. There should be no reserve at all. There are two kinds. A portion is in Chittoor and another in Vellore taluks. There are paimash numbers. It is demarcated by a line. The line system was put into force in 1930 replacing number system. We wish that it should not be done like that.

Filed judgment in forest case favourable to the ryots.

Adangal.

Judgment of the Chittoor District Collector saying that there is no reserve.

Judgment of 1914 establishing the customary right of villagers to forest.

Permits regarding grazing.

Order of the District Registrar saying that the survey is invalid.

Notice from the zamindar saying that the survey is invalid.



There is much annoyance on account of the grazing cases. This Enquiry Committee should do something at the earliest.

Mr. R. K. Viswanadha Aiah spoke in English.

Witness No. 274.

Madras.

23rd April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Veladanda Ranga Rao, son of Narasimha Rao, aged 52 years, Akupamula, Munagala estate, Nandigama taluk.

I am filing the information I have got. In 1930 the ryots and karnams were much troubled by them. We then started an association. On the occasion all the records were taken back from the karnams by the Deputy Tahsildar Mr. Syed Ahmed. All my records were taken back from me on 19th July 1930. I applied to the Collector. I am a karnam as well as a ryot (read orders of the District Magistrate). I was not paid my salary (read orders of the District Magistrate, dated 17th November 1930, prohibiting village munsifs from going to samasthanam without previous sanction of the revenue inspector). After the Collector Mr. Hejmadi passed a new order, I am speaking about the difficulties of the karnams that are acting as mediators between the zamindars and the ryots. The witness filed the following records:—

(1) G.O. No. 1129, dated 18th May 1920, regarding the high rents and reasons for them. Filed patta, muchilkas of 1892. Filed patta No. 23 from Court of Wards in 1305.

(2) Conditions of patta.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Did the zamindar ever file any suit about removal? A.—Rents were raised. There is removal also. In 1315 the assessment for dry was 4 annas; Rs. 2 for jarib. Rents for wet had been enhanced (filed patta). The acreage was enhanced by holding a private survey. The rates were enhanced before that. Paimash accounts were prepared. The rate was enhanced and then survey was made. Peshkash is Rs. 4,008. There must be a net income of Rs. 6,000. But the present income is Rs. 1,20,000.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What is the extent of cultivation? A.—It may be more. The accounts are not with me. Till that time wet and dry were in the same patta but afterwards they were separated. Patta No. 5 was sold as wet land, but saying that it was under joint liability the zamindar issued a fresh patta as wet. In the account it is one. Due to enmity with the ryot cultivating the wet they had done like this. In fasli 1320 the conditions were changed. There are not good crops in our parganas. All lands are entirely dependent upon rain. Wells are sunk and cultivation is carried. They were sinking the wells. A new clause was added in fasli 1320. (Read clause from patta.) They are demanding wet rate from us. They are already collecting wet rate for lands under big wells.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu : That wells costs about Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. (He read another clause regarding trees.) No receipt was given for filing. They fell and carry them and then they begin to quarrel. Bulbul trees grown by the ryots are claimed as their own. All the trees belong and they should have the rights in them. The ryots wish that wells also should be released in good order. They ask us to pay the cost of survey stones and that we should lay them. For this the District Collector passed an order allowing us to bury stones anywhere we please. S.S. No. 374/34, A.S. No. 1935 is a beedu. They demand rent. The tank beds have been converted into own kamatam and we are not allowed to take. This is prevalent in Nagulakunta tank and in every village also.

Filed document showing difference in permission clause. They do not change 1340 conditions. There are Government inams in our estate. They are charged at Rs. 3-12-0; Rs. 5-12-0 per acre. The Raja's rate is Rs. 6, Rs. 8, Rs. 10, Rs. 12 and Rs. 14. Now it is Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

Read an order addressed to Nadigudem Samuddar V.D. 330, dated 6th August 1934, regarding Survey No. 89, enhancing kist after the enforcement of the Estates Land Act.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Was it when the ryot was granted renewed patta? It is at the wish of the ryots after it was bought? Is it so? A.—Yes. I shall tell you if you get the records. There is also force used in the collections. In the present case Nukanna bought from Nutalapati Anantamma. No transfer patta was granted. We paid Rs. 13-1-0 on 15th February 1938. In the receipt it is written patta No. 137. Rs. 9-5-0 for fasli 1347. In account it is noted as 2-A. Unauthorized cultivation.



By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—That means there must be a clause instituted about unauthorized encroachment? A.—There must be a settlement of record of rights. Then it can easily known whether it is an encroachment or not.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What is to be done after the survey? A.—It must be given to the ryots alone. It is human to have benefit of the adjacent land and take it. It is no fault. Joint pattas must be separated. Even if our cattle go to the tank for drinking water they are impounded. They claim the bund in the tank as their own. The forest was reserved. Before that it used to be in the poramboke lands on the Nizam's boundary. Then there was an agreement. Collector's No. 138/82 Reg. 302—1843. To facilitate grazing of their cattle in these land and vice versa—

Nizam to give Rs. 350; Munagala, Rs. 1,150.

This amount was not collected from the ryots. The ryots were enjoying it free. Now they do not allow us to get even a piece of fuel.

Q.—Was it enhanced after the Estates Land Act? A.—They did not then. They renewed the patta and enhanced it here and there. It was not done through the court. When they wanted the tank water for use in their own lands they imposed one condition. Two pipes were laid—mesani and measene. They wanted to have the mesani portion. Measene portion they asked to take saying that they would repair. They widened it by one yard. We get no water. We have to cultivate with the aid of wells.

Washerman, barber, carpenter—these are necessary for the ryot. They had inams. It was settled in the Government survey of 1920 that they belonged to the zamindar. B registers were got written. The Government had no right to survey. A suit was filed and a decree was given. Now they are removed from the inam register. They have become the zamindar's men. They serve them. They do not give us service.

Suggestion by the Chairman: There must be a tussle always, it seems so. A.—No. The manyams should not belong to the zamindar. We wish that they should be communal. There is a decree to the effect that they are not Government lands. These service people are being much troubled. Narayana Padali is getting the contract work done by washerman in his contract area from Barhatgudem to Nadigudem on the Bandar-Hyderabad Road. In 1930 the mala formed into a sangham about forest stones. From that day they are being much troubled. Kistbandi must be done for dry from October 15th to December 15th and February 15th to March 15th. For wet lands also it must be done in two instalments. Jamabandi is done once in five or seven years. It must be done by the Government every year. The Government should inspect and grant remissions. Own seris must be abolished. There must be no pattas in the names of relations. Government should recognize our associations. Itinerant courts must be established. To a suggestion by Mr. Kumaraswami Raja, he said that it can be only to cases connected with the Estates Land Act. If not, panchayats may be established. They must not have the authority of nominating the village officers. The estate must undertake to survey and prepare the record of rights. The estate accounts must be kept in a way which is easy of scrutiny. Village karnam must keep them.

Filed a newspaper extract from the *Swarajya* regarding a meeting held in 1930 under the presidency of Mr. Biswanath Das. There is liberty according to the Estates Land Act, but they dig pits to prevent us. They do not allow us to manufacture bricks. There must be a decree laying down that the trees belong to the ryot however long they may be there.

Zamindari system must be abolished—especially Munagala Estate. Our estate was in two parts—Chintagani and Munagala. Chintagani is in Nizam getting about Rs. 500. The income of Munagala is Rs. 1,20,000. It must be done like that.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—It means that since they are of the same family they must be same in all respects. A.—You can read from that their misdeeds. I have got 70 acres of land. I did not till the soil. I am paying the tax. They do not allow me to cultivate. They have broken my head.

To a question put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said: There are others who are undergoing such troubles. It is from 1916 that I had been subject to these. In 1925 I filed a suit about joint pattas. Though my lands are nothing but waste I am paying Rs. 100 kist. They are able to create parties and splits on account of these joint pattas. Nominal damages of Rs. 5 were decreed in the suit.

By Mr. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—How would you like the rates to be reduced? A.—It must be one-sixth of the income after deducting expenses.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Q.—What do you think it should be? A.—It is from 9 annas to Re. 1 in the Government for dry. For bagayita—this rent must be adopted. For wet it must be from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. I wish it must not be more than that.



In reply to questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: The divisional officer suspended me on 11th April 1922 for disobeying orders. My arms licence also was cancelled since I had worked in the non-co-operation movement. The Collector removed me alleging that I had made some false statements. I was not dismissed. I was personal clerk of the Raja in the Munagala Estate from 1911-1917. I resigned of my own accord but neither was I removed or dismissed. From 1917 there was a litigation between the zamindar and myself about lands.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Why was the zamindar angry? A.—It was about an amount due from my partner which they collected from me.

Replying to questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: I have got no land in the estate but it is in the name of my wife. In 1931 it was not cultivated but I am paying a tax of Rs. 100. From 1933 they are not allowing me to cultivate. I have taken other lands on lease and am cultivating them. They wanted jamabandi every year. The karnams must maintain proper accounts but they do not give them. We are punished for that nobody listens.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—How many karnams were suspended? A.—They are 19. Six of them are very mild. Eleven were suspended, one was removed and one was dismissed.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—What is this fussle about? A.—Our pay is Rs. 6. We have cultivation also. If we do not keep false accounts as per the instructions of the zamindar all these troubles arise.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said: When I was with him in 1911-17 my work was not writing village accounts. The dismissed karnam is my brother-in-law. All karnams are related. I shall see the records and say if he had been dismissed for forgery of estate accounts. The ryots of the estate are good people; so they act according to his wishes.

Witness No. 275.

Madras.

23rd April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Tangella Venkadu, son of Mallayya, Dhobi, aged 45 years, Munagala.**

They are making Washerman, Madigas, Potters and Barbers break stones for no remuneration at all. Manyams are claimed as their own. I had also an inam land. On the whole there was about 10 acres of wet and 40 acres of wet land for six people. The Raja says it is his though it is in our possession. They give us daily batta. If our females do not do some work like thrashing chillies, etc., they do not give us lands. We used to pay the tax to the Government. Answering Sri Jogayya Pantulu he said: It is to do washerman's duty to the whole village in weal or woe. Ryots pay us separately.

To questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram: Ryots pay but the zamindar never pays. We pay road-cess to the Government. There is no temple in our village. We carry stones and our females pound rice, etc. Our sufferings are many. I belong to Munagala.

Witness No. 276.

Madras.

23rd April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Kuppuswami, Ponneri taluk, Minjur shrotriyam.**

The collections are double those of the adjacent villages with water sources. In 1932 Kishnaswami Chetti, Kani Rs. 8.

In 1312, T. Subramaniam, it was raised to Rs. 10-8-0. We refused to pay. They are collecting by force. (Filed a document for 91 cents.)

1306—Rs. 5-13-0—Water-cess.

1312—Rs. 7-2-0.

Filed patta showing the clause regarding remission in Kamasabhpathy Mudaliyar's time in 1303. Now it is not included.

In 1306 there was no water-supply and we wrote to the Collector. But no repairs were carried out. We have to depend entirely upon rain. Now the trustee have done nothing.



Filed a document showing the grant of remission. Joint pattas were not altered for which the clerks have to be tipped. We approached the Tahsildar and the Collector about the conduct of survey. Now they are doing it. They must have it done without troubling us for money. They are spending Rs. 2,000 out of the Rs. 8,000 for establishment. The village munsif may collect. Surplus is Rs. 2,000. They are collecting interest from December for taxes. There are many colleges in Mylapore. There he opened a charity school. It would have been better if that school had been opened in a village. There were 800 acres in this village under the stream canal. Four hundred out of it must be charged to dry. We are digging wells and cultivating. The Trustee Board does not at all enquire. There are nine members and they do not know the difference between paddy and chollu. There is no dam to the village tank, though there is a pipe. No crops grow. We sent petitions to the Collector without any use. They are assigning tank lands on application and collecting taxes. No patta is granted. It is entered in the accounts as vacant. There is not even a cent for cattle to graze. If we keep a beedu or grazing they charge wet rate for it.

The vettis of the village do no service at all for us. They give service to the zamindar. The water of the Kunaspati river flows to Valluru and no water flows to our village. A canal must be opened.

Witness No. 277.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Mylavarapu Lakshminarayana, son of Venkatappayya, aged 38 years, Pellur village, Venkatagiri estate.

Questioned by the Chairman he stated as follows : I am a resident of Pelluru in Venkatagiri Estate. I am a ryot. I filed a written memorandum. I represent the Taluk Ryot Association of which I am the Secretary. I have got lands in the zamindari. I can give you the information given in the memorandum and even more. There was no cash payment system for Pellur taluk. Payment in kind was in vogue 135 years back. In 1265 fasli, the zamindar fixed cash rate. (Here he files papers relating to fasli 1265.) Since they inaugurated cash payment system it seem to be beginning of it. Before that it was only payment in kind. Cash rate was fixed according to the area of the extent of sowing seeds under the pipe. It was not dependent upon the mere area. Then one term was three varahas. There were four terms. For first term, Rs. 10-1-6; second term, Rs. 8-6-8; third term, Rs. 6-11-10; fourth term, Rs. 5-0-10. When the ryots complained that the rates were high the zamindar collected deducting a portion " vandra " " vyayam " which means collecting taxes with a reduction of 25 per cent. " Vandra " is granted to Sudras and " vyayam " is used in the case of Brahmans. It is written in an old record. Thus they collected rents with a reduction. At this reduction rate the rates come to first term, Rs. 7-9-1; second term, Rs. 6-5-0; third, Rs. 5-0-11; fourth term, Rs. 3-12-7. This is how it was collected. The northern portion five taluks of the estate were taken for lease by Rahimtulla Saheb. He increased the term in order to have more profit in the income after paying mayati to the zamindar. These dittams pertain to faslis 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276. (Here he files records.) There were kattubadi before that. The rates were low. There are 339 gorrus. Gorru is equal to 3 acres and 12 cents. The zamindar used to get Rs. 123-12-0 then. They used to collect As. 5-6 per gorru. This is for all dry lands. This system was in vogue then. Wet was charged the lowest of the high rates. Of late this contractor, discarded the prevailing rate and assessed some dry lands at Rs. 6-5-4. For korana 132 gorrus the rate was As. 5-6 and he enhanced it to Re. 1. The rest he increased to Rs. 5, Rs. 6, Rs. 4 and Rs. 3. (Here he files records.) This rupee rate is there. Along with the rest of the area the Rs. 6 rate was fixed. He threatened to increase the wet rate and raised the same to Rs. 48, Rs. 44, Rs. 32 and Rs. 26. The last rate for wet was Rs. 16. It was Rs. 12-13-0; Rs. 7-10-11; and Rs. 5-1-11. He increased the rates. Then there was an increase of Rs. 3,901-0-10 over the dowlu of Pelluru village. This was, it seems, due to the measurement of sown areas, etc., assessment of new rate noting dry land under wet land; by enhancement of the original rate. It is evident that the extent was shown to have increased, and the rate was enhanced. For jarib lands the water-rate was increased though they were watered by men. On account of assessing higher small greengram plantations with fasl. This is grown after paddy is hewn. Paddy after being hewn grows again in small plants. This is assessed at second-crop rate. This increase is partly due to collecting tax on village common lands. The arrears due to the zamindars are on the lands assessed high at the time of the re-grant after being occupied as per decrees of the revenue and civil



courts. For lands under wells there are two instalments of crops. First they say single crop. The zamindar has in the patta the rate for first crop Rs. 12, for two crops, Rs. 24. We have to pay for lands even under the wells. Even it is a waste we have to pay the same kist for two crops. This is all due to the kuntas being measured by bamboos and chains and consequent increase in extent. There is an increase of extent on paper but not on land. The adjacent Government land have been assessed at Rs. 7-2-0; Rs. 6-8-0; Rs. 5-5-0; Rs. 4-14-0 and Rs. 4-9-0. The ryots became poor by selling dry lands for paying these high rents. There are not 100 per cent of the ryots now cultivating the lands as there were in 1273 fasli. On the average of 50 years there is not one ryot who had been in any land permanently. There are very few debts without limitation. In four years there is an arrears of Rs. 20,000 in the dowlu. There is an amount of Rs. 8,000 outstanding on decrees. This is only in Pellur village alone. The increase on the whole Pellur taluk is Rs. 40,490 upto now. On Pelluru village alone the enhancement is Rs. 3,954-0-9. The tanks are not repaired and lands under some tanks are left uncultivated. In some villages they are demanding wet assessment for dry crops. The tanks have become shallow and the water is not sufficient for the ayacut. In Pellur village in 1273 fasli the ayacut under this tank was 76 gorrus; and now it is 440 acres. The extent at present is 696 acres 8 cents. There is an increase in the ayacut by 456 acres but the tank is in the same state. It has to be filled twice for the water to be sufficient for cultivation. Out of ten years in 1339, 1340, and 1341 faslis the crops failed for insufficiency of water. In 1343, 1344, 1346 and 1347 faslis also there was the same complaint. Diwan Peshkar, Tahsildar, revenue inspector had all written that the tank had to be filled twice before it can be useful. No refunds were granted by the zamindar. The matter was taken to the court. They went up to the district but they did not move the High Court. It is written that he had to bear the loss if proper facilities for irrigation are not made by supply of sufficient water. The pattas granted afterwards were not taken for this village. This tank is now entirely dependent upon rain. Even at the time of the rains no valuable crops can be grown on the lands. Three months' crop is small crop and five months' crop is rich. Formerly though the demand on the tank was high the crops were good giving a yield of two candies per acre. Now the yield is only three-eighths of a candy on account of the increase in extent of the ayacut. The ryots of Gubbanampadu repaired their tank when there was a breach in 1395 fasli. That amount is still due from the zamindar. In Vallur and Pellur the zamindar carries out nominal repairs owing to the trouble from the railway authorities. Other tanks are neglected without repairs. Though there are musli canal and Gundlakamma near these tanks the water is wasted by being discharged into the sea owing to the neglect of the zamindar to utilize them. The officers of the estate say that the grant of remissions is entirely dependent upon their will and pleasure. Waste hay is used for grazing cattle. Mr. Carlston has dealt with the sort of hay or bondu in his judgment. He wrote that even that was not left. 'Sukti' is crop without paddy or bunches of paddy. In standing order No. 10 of the estate it is stated that no remissions need be granted as per the Act and so the officials should consider this and be careful in granting remissions. Pellur was included in 'sukti' accounts in 1343 fasli. They wrote that it was not proper on the part of the Collector to pass a judgment on the accounts kept by our servants. When the ryots put in petitions about sukti they come for inspection only after the cattle had consumed the whole. When Government had loans granted to ryotwari ryots through co-operative societies they had collected them correctly to the pie. Even though the change was affected as per the Act through the office of a registrar, the zamindars are not giving effect to patta transfers. So there are joint decrees and one man's property is attached for another's dues. In some pattas, as in No. 260 of Gummanampadu, there is a condition that whoever agrees to clear all the arrears on the patta should enjoy the land or else relinquish it. They are imposing another condition in regard to some dry lands that, if the land is cultivated with the help of the "mulum well," they have to pay the usual rent. It was Rs. 20 for hedges 'vasepalli.' Now it had been raised to Rs. 450. He wanted to lease the hedge-lands to other villagers and they had been called in to bid for it. It was to prevent us from growing hemp, etc., or build houses that he had grown this. They auction the fish in it. If the bid is struck off in the name of other villagers there will be a struggle between the ryots of this village and the bidders as the former will not allow catching fish until the water is drained from the tank. Tank bed lands had been granted on pattas and a rate is fixed. We have to pay tax even for the water our cattle drink. There is nothing but red soil in Pelluru tank pit. A tax is collected for cattle standing there. Kanche tax is collected on corner bund low land. If it is not paid our cattle are impounded. Last year, though we had severed all connexion the revenue inspector had a pro-note forged in the name of Dandu Ramanayya. This year since we did not do so they are troubling us much. A patta was granted for 100 acres of kanche at Re. 1 for patta to Dandibhatla Ramamurthy Sastry Garu. They had granted pattas for communal lands, topes, ponds, tanks, etc. In East Naidupalem, near Madras road, an extent of 8 acres.



and 42 cents in a tope with a pond (No. 13) had been auctioned at a rate of Rs. 150 per acre. The villagers sent a petition and had petitions sent from villagers like Alakuripadu. Rupees 320 was deposited for 8 acres and 41 cents. In Pelluru, Dasri Ellamanda had cultivated 2 acres of the kara katta. The zamindar had been collecting tax for this and for land set apart for cattle to stand (manda bayalu). He is intending to give a patta for it. There are no conveniences for the ryots in this zamindari in the matter of collections. Payment are not noted well. If the ryots files an answer he is removed or if an ex parte decree is given they collect it again. Proper receipts are not issued to the ryots by the collecting officers. Payments are not noted in accounts regularly without noting payment they file suits and bring attachments. If the ryots file answers they withdraw. Ramsing of Manchikalapadu lodged a complaint for not issuing receipts. Formerly there was 'tukam and challakam' (sowing) in inams. More rate was collected from ryots who were ignorant of this—ryots who were ignorant even though 580 hukums were issued from the estate. They enquire into the suits filed. If we say that we do not pay inam jattas they should not collect more. The Deputy Collectors had been appointed to look after suits, etc. Suit expenses also are collected. In them inam jattas were collected from Rangayya. In some villages they could not pay the taxes and the lands were annexed. Of the same kind are Nagiri annexed lands. If the ryots are not able to pay the taxes and fall in arrears of payment the zamindar buys them in auction after attachment for 4 annas whatever the kist may be. There are about 400 like that. There are more annexed lands than owned lands. These are lands which had been relinquished by the ryot and bought by him in auction. No. 28 patta land of Dhenuvakonda is at the end of the wet land in the village. It was land changed into wet from dry. The rate for that is Rs. 29 per gorru. He protested that it was high rate and that he would pay it when water was used. They said that the rate of Rs. 29 was being collected only for the patta land which was in his name. I bought patta No. 270 of Pellur survey No. 290/1, 82 cents in extent, in 1901 and am paying Rs. 11-1-11 tax on it. No patta is granted to me as yet though requested. Bode channel No. 291/1 was 1 acre and 70 cents in extent. It was increased to 2 acres and 29 cents by the addition of a part of the channel. The collection instalments begin in August. Collections must be made from January to April. When they come to collect from August the ryot would have got no crop at all. If we do not pay our cattle are attached. They attach food materials also. They do not change the kistis-instalments.

There is forest. We used to get free from Yellamilli forest fuel, etc., but now they are collecting more money. Even trees in the patta lands are being auctioned. There is no regular jamabandi held. Jamabandi is not held for every year. Even if sukta account is not received suits were filed. There was no jamabandi held for the last three or four years and even this year. They collect rents for the year though the previous year's account is pending. Owing to non-transfer of pattas the tax on patta No. 120 was collected from me. There is no connexion between the kist and the ryot in Pellur village. For Rs. 153-12-0 payable in a suit in which the Collector ordered payment of Rs. 27-13-0 for expenses only Rs. 13-12-0 was received. The Debts Act was first put into force against me. The Congress Sub-Committee asked me to enquire into the matter. Auction due date was past by fifteen days. The Collector said that the arrears of rent should be cleared. The zamindar's accounts are private records. They do not produce the records in the courts. We request that the high rates prevalent in the zamindari villages be changed and rates like those prevalent in the ryotwari villages should be put into force. The tanks must be taken charge of by the Government. Joint pattas muddle must be put an end to. The collection of taxes must be made by the panchayats or the Government. We wish that the grant of remission must depend on some law but not on the will and pleasure of somebody. The communal lands must be in the possession of the villagers with no interference from the zamindar. The instalments must be like those in the Government. The kist for kanches or hedges must be abolished. We must be able to get fuel, etc., free from the forest. The difference between nanja and punja must be clear. Jamabandi should be conducted every year. The No. 10 Register should be maintained as it is done in the Registrar's office. The ryots' associations must be recognized. Land courts must be established to enquire into the zamindari assessments. The zamindari system should entirely be abolished. Now they are giving pattas removing and altering the original conditions in regard to water-cess and collection regulations.

The contractor is Rahimtulla Saheb. Next is the Dewan. I am filing a document showing the difference between the (berij) statements of 130 years ago and the present ones. The zamindar orders collection of the taxes first. Rs. 5-1-0 was collected in 1311 as arrears from Kurakula Nagireddi of West Nayudupalam. It is an arrear of thirty years back. Patta was granted six years after the collection of tax. In Pelluru 172 pattas which were at the rate of Rs. 2-8-0 were granted to others at Rs. 5. (Files documents.) (Files statement of zarib lands.) We get the tanks repaired. They grant only to those



who are subservient to them. The zamindar pays the village officers some remuneration besides their salaries. (I am filing papers in support of this.) Suits are filed even though jamabandi is not completed. They collect whenever they like saying that money is required for estate expenses.

To questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness answered as follows. I have got 2 acres of wet and 3 acres of dry land, total 5 acres of land, in Pellur village itself. I worked as a revenue inspector in the estate, for six years. I issued the receipts regularly and there were no complaints. I worked in Kallipudi and Nelamalli ranges. I resigned my post but I was not removed. I did not preach non-payment of taxes on behalf of the ryots' association started.

I bought 20 acres of wet land for Rs. 2,500 from Palleti Subba Nayudu of Pudeti village. Low level land is 14 acres 58 cents. I cultivated it from 1925 to 1930 and the proceeds were insufficient to pay the taxes which amounted to Rs. 120. I sold it away for Rs. 660 in 1930 though it was bought for Rs. 2,461. I had to sell it away on account of heavy assessment and scanty crop. The cultivation charges are heavy and the yield is less. I do not know the exact yield but it is meagre. There is no proper water-supply from the tanks. There is no profit and the water-rate is high. It was subject to pests and so loss was sustained. I was in service till 1930. When I was in service I got it cultivated by coolies. I sold it away in 1930 as I could not attend to its cultivation on account of pressure of other work. I sold it for Rs. 600 and odd. There are documents. There is the registered application. Patta is in the name of Subba Nayudu. I paid the money on agreement and occupied the land. I wanted to cultivate it myself. I sustained loss in five years alone. I did not bring the agreement here. I shall send it if required. I cultivated my land employing cultivators. The land is in their possession only now. I have still to pay Rs. 220 out of the amount. When I bought it I paid some cash and 6 acres of land in return. I sold away 14 acres of land. I do not at present know about the cattle being allowed into the forest. I have left that village. I have now got only 5 acres of land in my village. I know personally that water-tax for cattle is collected in Pelluru. I have no papers with me but it is in their accounts. No receipts are granted but it will be in their accounts. The tank-bunds or hedges are granted on contract for grazing. There is no convenience for getting water. I do not know if they enter it in their accounts or not. There is a panchayat board in our village but there are no parties; nor differences of opinions. I never preached in any meeting about non-payment of taxes. I am now working as an income-tax auditor and auditing the accounts of Sowcars. I do the collection work of the panchayat board. There may arise parties in panchayat board elections. The majority party comes into power and I think that the proceedings and works are guided by the majority party. There is no necessity for disputes. There are fifty village associations in our taluk, but there are no parties in them uptil now. The panchayat board collect house and other taxes. At some places the clerks do it and in others the presidents do the collection work.

There are so much injustice in the zamindari system especially in the case of collections. In panchayat board though the collections are made by many it is not misappropriated. In the estates the karnams misappropriate part of the collections. The karnams of Pelluru and Manchikalapadu had collected the taxes and kept them with themselves without remitting it into the treasury. The same is the state in Padamatha Nayudupalem. The karnams are misappropriating. If the collection is handed over to the panchayat boards there will not be so much mischief and so many cannot mis-handle the amount. I think then it will be well-conducted. There must be the responsibility of the Government also. As far as I know there are no disputes between the Kammas and Kapus. There is a ryots' association in our village. There is a taluk association also. I am a member of the same. I am the secretary of the village sangham and am working in both.

Witness No. 278.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Duvvuri Balarami Reddi, son of Narayana Reddi, aged 28 years, Mallam village, Venkatagiri estate. • •

I am a resident of Mallam, Venkatagiri Estate, and an estate ryot. There had been an occasional enhancement of taxes from fasli 1283. Mallam was given on contract for Rs. 5,500 until 1288 fasli. After that it was given on half gross produce system. Then that village and the hamlets under it had been considered as one. The estate authorities collected cash Rs. 1,023-13-5 for all the hamlets and the village—gardens, bunds, all included. By produce system they were getting about 131 candies 'konu'. They sold it at Rs. 30 per candy. The cost of the paddy comes up to Rs. 4,960-3-5. This system was in vogue in the village until 1322 fasli. In 1322 it



was changed to cash collection system. Then it increased to be Rs. 12,053-6-0. Now, in 1347, 1348 faslis, the rents on the village run up to about Rs. 15,000. As per Government survey the registers were changed for 1344 and 1345 faslis. Before that they were according to old survey. As per new survey the taxes were enhanced to Rs. 15,000. There is more wet lands and bunds in this village. These bunds are one, two, three chains in length and they are useful only for cattle to graze. They will be about two feet in height. Because they are non-delta areas they are uncultivable. If we convert them into arable land there is no space for cattle to stand. They must remain like that. They charged Rs. 10, Rs. 9, Rs. 8 and Rs. 7—wet rate for them. When cash payment system was put into force, the ryots being mild and unresisting, yielded to the authorities. Within three years they insisted upon our taking them also with penalty of collecting wet rate for them also if we did not wish to take them. Even now they are like that. There is only 200 acres of dry land in a village where there is 2,200 acres of wet. We are paying wet rate of Rs. 10, Rs. 9, Rs. 8, Rs. 7, Rs. 6 and Rs. 5 for that. Whether it is cultivated wet or whether it converted into wet or not they say we must pay that rent. The bunds have not been levelled upto now. For three years they granted them for lower taxes by subdividing. A separate register was maintained for that. In Tirumur and seven, eight hamlets in that firka the bunds are under the head of wet and in the same rate. They are still in half produce payment system. Ryots are grazing their cattle from there. Only they pay half the produce. In Mallam village wet there will be about two, three chains of bunds. Still there are 650 acres under half gross produce payment system. In 1334 fasli, the estate granted pattas for bunds in wet lands at dry rate in the village of Tirumur and hamlets. In Tuchili firka, pattas were obtained fifty, sixty years back. In that the bunds were excluded and wet rate was charged as wet. It is troublesome to the ryots as the village is in half produce payment system. We have to approach the servants of the zamindar even if we hew the crop. We have to wait till they come. You must consider this also which also must be changed. Half produce system is not profitable to us. If our tank is kept in good order our crops will never fail. To go to the servants often and tip them often is not easy for us and the koru system does not now suit us. In the adjacent Government village the wet rate is Rs. 6-8-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 and even Rs. 3-8-0. For dry it is Re. 1-2-0, 13 annas and 12 annas. The rates are much higher than in the Government village, so we request that you will consider this also. Government lands are very fertile. They are mixture of 'kavavaka'. These are sandy lands. They are better lands than these. 'Suvarnamukhi' branches and flows through Gunupatipalem. The Government lands cultivated under the Suvarnamukhi also are charged a lower rate. Rupees 7-2-0 is according to high rate in Vakada. There is a dam there and we get only surplus water.

Questioned by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness continued as follows: Mallam tank is in a very bad situation. There is six miles of bund but not one dam. We create a breach in the bund during the rainy season for cultivation purposes and then close the breach after use. There were no repairs made for it but now they are strengthening it with earth. Four years back it was granted to Kogili karnam for getting it repaired. Suvarnamukhi water can be got in Mallam tank. It is twelve miles off. It can be filled from a stream called Koyala kaluva. Government constructed a dam to it. The canal was repaired by none. The canal is only two miles in length part of which is in Government lands. The rest is in zamindari lands. We do the necessary earth work for it.

Witness No. 279.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Venati Munuswami Reddi, son of Muni Reddi, aged 50 years, of Andagondala, Venkatagiri estate.

He stated as follows: Till the fasli 1312; our village was as "koru vahini." Koru means waste land. Within ten years the payment was brought to Rs. 1,920. In 1913, the patta was settled. By that the tax was enhanced to Rs. 3,796. In fasli 1323, rates of Rs. 10, Rs. 9, Rs. 8 and Rs. 7 were levied saying that repairs would be conducted, that the prices were high enough, that the rates were fixed and graded according to the difference in lands and that this system would be beneficial to the public. Thus a total tax of Rs. 5,841 was fixed. By the survey of fasli 1333, the tax increased more than the ijara by Rs. 7,621. If and when it comes to be auctioned (revenue auction), the Raja will buy the same at the rate of one anna per rupee. It has come to the possession of the Raja Sahib. The tax



for that is Rs. 866-7-0. An increase of Rs. 758 has been made for fasli 1347. Not even a cent was increased by the survey ijara. The tank is not overflowing. The waste land also remained as what it was in extent. It was surveyed in fasli 1326 by the Raja. It was not more than what is already stated in the village accounts. It slightly increased due to the survey. No. 151 patta was 5 acres and 23 cents in fasli 1318. The rate was Rs. 31-3-7. By fasli 1328, the rate for the same extent became Rs. 42-5-7. Since fasli 1313, cash payment settlement was made for the patta. It is stated that amended rates or ameen system may be accepted to some extent. The rates in the Battulavaram village are Rs. 5-8-0, Rs. 4, Rs. 3 and Rs. 2. The tanks are quite good. There are good water conveniences. They are paying a compensation of 4 annas per rupee for the Tirupati Devasthanam lands. Our lands are of lesser fertility than them. The rates in Kadur, a Government village, are Rs. 4½ and Rs. 3. The rates in Gudalivaripalem are Rs. 4, Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-12-0. Only in Kurvakolla the rates are low.

The rates are heavy and unjust. There are no water conveniences.

For Gaddagunta village—Akkampeta, in fasli 1292, the I.S.A. is Rs. 207.

Fasli.					I S.A.					RS.
1290	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300
1295	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	95
1296	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	97
1299	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	350
1316—1321	..	..	..	..	Do.	..	..	..	..	420

The rate (taram) for patta 580 from faslis 1322-1333 was Rs. 8-7-6, and the payment was settled for Rs. 883-11-3. It increased to Rs. 1,383. The extent did not increase. The cash paid between 1310 and 1319 (for ten years) for the village of Villurupadu is Rs. 701-2-10. The grain amounted to 23 candies, 10 thooms and 2½ measures. The approximate value is Rs. 700. According to this account it is Rs. 1,201-2-10. Dry wet is 309 acres and 22 cents. In fasli 1319, they changed it into cash rate. Then they levied Rs. 8-6-6, Rs. 4-14-0 and Rs. 3-14-0. The whole amounted to Rs. 1,874-0-8. The rate for the indigo field is Rs. 10. The rates are high. Whether there is the indigo cultivation or not, Rs. 10 have to be paid for that small field of 4 or 5 cents. It will be very costly to remove the indigo thotti. That is why we did not remove that. The rates are Rs. 10, Rs. 9 and Rs. 8. The value for ten years at a stretch in the Vellurupadu village is Rs. 501-2-10 for 23 candies, 10 thooms and 2½ measures. The taram rate varies between Rs. 8, Rs. 6-6-0, Rs. 4-14-0, and Rs. 3-14-0. The rate for one gorru is Rs. 50. The cultivation for fasli 1333 was Rs. 3,117-13-10. Gorru means 6½ cents. The first taram rate for patta No. 13 was Rs. 8-2-2 and the second taram was Rs. 7; third taram, Rs. 6. The taram for No. 28 patta was Rs. 6-6-6.

*Kadalur* is a zamindari village. The karnam was ordered that the rates prevailing in the adjacent village should not apply to that village also. Though both the villages belong to the same estates, same rates are not levied.

Files document pertaining to the Gaddagunta ijara. Our tank is not repaired. An overseer or a supervisor will be sent to draw an estimate at the time of the collection of taxes. But nothing happens. You can see how bad the tanks are now. They are not repaired. They are 10 to 4 gandilu. When we ask for repairs, we will be asked in turn to fix upon a contractor. The contractor will not be paid. He will be asked to adjust the money he has to receive towards any dues he owes to the estate. Everybody refuses to accept the contract. We did not have any canal. We get only rain water. Even then one-fourth of the tank will be full. It will not be sufficient even for watering once. Rupees 100 will be paid for repairing the Vendlur tank. The ryots bear all the costs and have it repaired. The Pamula canal is two miles off. When there is water in the tank for want of rains, we are sending suptee reports but no remission will be given. If at all any remission is given, it will be a part remission. If he files any suit we should not answer it. We should vote for the person fixed by the Raja. If we don't vote for that person, we will be put among the list of disobedient people, and criminal cases will be filed against us. Such unjust acts will be done. The revenue inspector will be sent to attach the movable property. Till it is attached the cattle will not be released. (They will tom-tom to this effect.) If we are not able to pay by that time, all the cattle will be taken to the Taluk office. They charge 3 annas per one animal. They won't get the money even by auctioning the cattle. By the attachment of movable property and cattle, the ryots are suffering very much. The zamindari rule must be removed and substituted by that of the Government. If the tanks are repaired by the Government our economic position will be improved much. If four people pay for a joint patta, it will be enforced on the person whom he pleased to do so.

(The next witness, M. Venkataramiah of Kochinadu deposed in English.)



Witness No. 280.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. M. Venkatarama Ayyar, Vakil of Tiruvallur, Representative of Zamin Ryots of Kachinad.

(Read extract from a statement at the close of his evidence.)

The first taram rate in the Sivili village is Rs. 3.

The water-cess in Mopurupalle is Rs. 4-8-0 for a flow of three months.

In Racherla for a flow of five months, their rate is Rs. 5-12-0 whereas the Government rate is only Rs. 4-10-0.

In Vadarkadu—Rs. 7-8-0.

In Chilamathur—Rs. 5.

These are the Government rates and cesses. The devastanam rate is Rs. 3 and Rs. 3-4-0. The Government rate is Rs. 1-8-0 only.

It is Rs. 4-8-0 for the garden. Manavari is included into nanja I. The rate for the Government rainfed land is Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju, he said : It is not the consolidated rate. It is a rate per acre. So much for the first crop. Half of it for the second crop. If there is a third crop, one-fourth of it must be paid.

Witness No. 281.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kunduri Venkata Sivaraju, son of Venkataramaraju of Siddhiraju Khandigai, Kachinad taluk (Tirupati devasthanam).

I have already submitted one paper. In Siddhiraju Khandigai I have 20 acres of nanja, 40 acres of punja lands, 20 acres of pathways and 10 more acres in other villages. Now settlement is made and changes are made regarding the lands. Since ten years, a cess for special crop is being levied. The ryots are put to much difficulty. Enough, if no changes are made. There is no necessity for any change. Forests are being reserved. The ryots are thus irritated. Wood, leaves and thangadu, nothing of this sort can be taken. They sell by auction the sandalwood. These changes should not be made. They are levying high water-rates for the Sachala lands. Those rates range from 8 annas to Rs. 3. Nowhere are the Government rates so high. The zamindari rates are between Rs. 4 and Rs. 7. They are collecting Rs. 7 to Rs. 12 for nanja. The rate in Nagalapuram is not more than Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 for giving flow for nine months. You must see that the high rates must be reduced.

Regarding the auction of immovable property, Rs. 12-8-0 are taken from the ryot for the gazette publication. It is enough if notice is given to all through the Taluk office. The ryots feel it difficult to pay this amount. It is enough if the pattas are sent by post. The ryots are unable to bear the costs of all this. Such things should be removed.

Taxes are collected for grazing fields. At times when crops get disease, they don't reduce taxes. The fixed taxes will be collected. I am unable to express the difficulties of the ryots.

It should be fixed that immovable property may be attached if taxes are not paid. The attachment must be equal to the amount of rates due. At present the officials are attaching houses, bullocks and other movable property and auctioning them. This causes much trouble to the ryots.

The jamabandi must be conducted by every Collector. Now it is not being conducted at all. Statement of accounts, the extent and nature of lands, the amount of cess—nothing of this sort is furnished. You must see that all this is correctly done.

The tanks are not repaired well even in spite of sending several petitions. Everything was well and good during the regime of the Mahant. He was conducting the repairs now and then. After the advent of the Committee, nothing of that sort is done. The ryots are put to difficulties as the tanks are now not of any utility. You must see that the monegars and the villagers repair the tanks. It must be stipulated that the villagers should conduct the repairs themselves as and when such a necessity arises.

During the Mahant's time about Rs. 600 were sanctioned for conducting repairs once in every ten years. Now the Committee is not at all undertaking any repair. We are not having any water. It must be so arranged that if the zamindars don't repair the tanks, the Government must undertake that work and take the expenditure incurred



thereby from the zamindari treasury. When the budget is prepared, the Committee is not making a provision of Rs. 1,000 even for providing agricultural facilities. The ryots are thus ruined. The Devasthanam Committee is not paying any attention to the repairs needed. The administration of the Mahant shines bright when compared with that of the Committee.

They have imposed heavy cesses for the leased lands. The lands were unjustly surveyed and the cess was increased much. Checkbandi or inspection has been conducted very unjustly. Such atrocities do exist. They have made 100 pits into 115 by the survey. Remission is not given. You must remove the system of compromise.

The monegars and revenue inspectors are not showing accounts correctly. They commit many errors while drawing accounts.

The CHAIRMAN remarked: The men on the spot must adjust all things between themselves and make matters run smoothly. All the ryots must unite themselves in sharing the water among them. What can the Government do regarding this?

The witness continued: The ryots cannot understand so much. When they are unable to look to their own facilities, the Government must do all that.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: We own lands of Karvetinagaram. I am one of the trustees for some lands there. We have leased the lands on contract. I am a trustee for three or four villages. Rupees 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 are being collected. There are three or four tanks. We are conducting repairs whenever necessary. The ryots don't suffer any difficulty in our lands. They are not labouring under any wants. We spent Rs. 250 for constructing a sluice. Some more Rs. 50 also were spent.

There are joint pattas in our villages. We are separating them when applied for. There is no trouble regarding forests. The ryots are allowed to send their cattle into the forests for grazing free of cost. Generally we don't attach any property. We have given up attaching for fear of incurring Rs. 12-8-0. We are avoiding all such unpleasant attachments as far as possible. We don't put the cattle to auction. We are supplying palinyra leaves free of cost for the protection of the seedlings in the plots of lands. Only the remaining leaves are sold on contract.

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Witness No. 282.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. G. Ponnuswami Mudali of Pallipet, Chittoor district.

I am a ryot. We belong to No. 29, Venkataperumalrajapuram of Chettinad. It belonged to the Zamindar of Karvetinagar. The Chettiar bought it in auction. He has about 100 villages. Dasabandham tank is our water source. As sand was deposited, the depth began to decrease gradually. It cannot hold water. We are watering our fields with well water. Cess is collected for pits also. Even for dry land tax is collected according to the crops raised. Even for trees such as tamarind, a rate is being collected. The lands are not surveyed, but the taxation is increased. There is no water-supply. But yet, they are collecting wet rates.

The tank was constructed by Konduru Gummallaraju Garu, long long ago, in a patta land. A right over one-fourth of the tank was given to his descendants. The land in the tank area is being given away to the ryots. As there is no material use from the tank, they are even prepared to give up their dasabandham right. They are prepared even to give up the one-fourth reduction of the rates. The tank is never repaired well. There is no canal arrangement. But they are levying wet rates. The rates must be paid irrespective of the yield.

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Witness No. 283.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Nalluri Venkataraju, son of Kuppuraju of Venkataperumalrajapuram, Pallipet, Chettinad estate, Chittoor district.

Our village belonged to the Karvetinagaram Estate. But since twenty years it is included in the Chettinad Estate. The Chettiar bought it in auction. I have 200 guntas of land, 150 guntas of nanja and 100 guntas of punja. I am paying a kist of Rs. 200. There is no dasabandham tank for our village. Our ancestor—Mummallaraju



Garu dug it, when I was not yet born. Two hundred guntas are being cultivated under the tank. There is no sufficient water-supply from the tank. The tank is getting water through the canals flowing from the hills. The tank is absolutely of no use. It is not giving water even for five or six days in the whole year. We have right over one-fourth of the tank. There are some more partners. Sand is deposited in the tank. The taxes are heavy. The same rates are being levied though we are not using the water of the tank. The rates are higher than the Government rates. They take three or four thooms per gunta. They don't reduce even on request. We have dug our wells and using that water. But yet the wet rate is levied.

To question put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu : Even if the tanks will be repaired slightly, there will not be any use. It is the zamindar's duty to undertake the repairs. The tank only is an inam one. The rest belongs to the estate. All the partners are prepared to leave off their rights over the tank. Though our ancestors dug the tank, it is a custom that the zamindar should repair it.

Witness No. 284.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Poondi Periyandi Reddi, son of Muniappa Reddi of Rajanagaram (Dumbala, Tiruttani taluk, Chittoor district).

I have some land in Rajanagaram. Pokarajupalli Timmareddi Garu is our zamindar. He is the proprietor. The taxes are very high. I possess 100 guntas of nanja land and 100 guntas of punja. The inhabitants of our village sent me here to represent them. The tax is very high. The rate is five thooms per gunta. If the yield is sold we are not getting even Rs. 3. I have come to inform you all this. If our tank is full, it gives water for the whole year. Now, for want of repair, the water is not sufficient even for four months. It was not repaired since fifty years. The canal also is not repaired. Earth covered the whole thing. The proprietor will not repair it, in spite of our repeated requests. We are not able to live without water. All trash is growing in the tank. They won't allow the cattle to graze. The forest is in their control. In olden days the people even allowed to take their cattle into the forest to graze, but not so now. We are not allowed to take earth or manure (dried leaves) from the forest. So also with regard to wood and fuel. For taking wood, a tax must be paid. Even for dry land, taxes are collected according to the crops raised. All the waste lands are controlled by them. We are prohibited from using it. Because of all that, the ryots are put to much difficulty. The rates must be reduced as in the case of other neighbouring villages. The rates must be not more than the Government rates. If the rate per one gunta, when groundnut is cultivated, is 10 annas, they are collecting Rs. 10 per acre. They are taking Rs. 60 for rice fields.

Q.—How much rent is charged for grams for one acre in cropwar rates?

A.—Rs. 9-8-0 to Rs. 10 per acre.

Q.—What is the rent for paddy for one acre?

A.—Rs. 5 or Rs. 5-8-0 approximately.

Q.—How are the crops fed with water?

A.—They are fed with well water drawn with the aid of "kavalai."

Q.—Is any rent charged for lands that are let to lie fallow?

A.—No rent is charged, if the lands are uncultivated.

Q.—What are the crops that bear low rates of assessment?

A.—'Nanjai' lands are taxed heavily. If grams or sugarcane are cultivated in dry lands, the rent will be high. There are different rates of rent for different crops.

Q.—Do you want the same rate of rent to be charged for all kinds of crops?

A.—That is what we want. Then questioned by Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar in Tamil, the witness replied as follows in Tamil :

Q.—How many acres of land do you possess?

A.—Taking both wet and dry lands, I have got 20 acres of land.

Q.—Do you cultivate the lands or do others cultivate?

A.—We ourselves cultivate.



Q.—Do you allow your lands to be cultivated for share system?

A.—No.

Q.—If others allow their lands to be cultivated, according to the share system, what varam do they get?

A.—Half of the varam goes to the share. That is, we take for our share half of the total produce. The remainder is left to the cultivator. The cultivator himself must purchase seeds. Out of the total yield, half goes to the pattadar and the remaining half, to the cultivator. This is the custom.

Q.—Are the “konmois” in your village well dug out? How does the water find its way to your fields?

A.—There is an “eri.” The “eri” supplies the fields with water.

Q.—Are the “eris” well repaired?

A.—For the last fifty years, no repairs have been carried out.

Q.—If so, have you sent any petition to the Collector?

A.—Out of fear for the proprietor, we have not sent any petition to the Collector. If we complain about the non-execution of any repair, the estate proprietor says that we have no business to complain about that.

Q.—How long will there be water-supply if the repairs have been carried out?

A.—If the repairs have been done, there will be sufficient supply of water for one year in the “eri.”

Q.—For how many months have you got water now?

A.—Now there is sufficient supply of water only for four months in a year in the “eri.”

Witness No. 285.

Madras.

24th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. V. Munuswami Nayudu, Kallurapalem, Chandragiri taluk, Chittoor district.

In our village rates for wet lands range between Rs. 10, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 per acre. For dry lands rates vary between Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 and Rs. 4-8-0 per acre. In our paliam, tanks have not at all been repaired for the last twenty or thirty years. Rents are not reduced in spite of the present low prices. Irrigation sources are few and water is not supplied properly and no repairs are being done. Tanks get filled up once in five or six years. Though water is not supplied properly, high rates are being charged for the wet. We depend on water from wells dug at our cost. No remissions are granted to us as is being done for ryotwari lands. Wet rates are being collected even when sajja and ragi are grown. We request that remissions be granted to us as in ryotwari areas. Adjacent to our village, there are Government lands under the ‘Thamal tank.’ Kept in good condition, wet rates vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6. Dry rates range between 6 annas and Rs. 1-4-0. I own 30 acres of wet land and 30 acres of dry land. It is better that the tanks are taken under the control of the Government and repairs done. There are seven or eight tanks near our village. We grow crops with water from wells dug by us. Tanks seldom get fully filled up even once in seven or eight years. Dry lands irrigated by wells are also charged at wet rates. Taram rates are also charged. Wet rates should not levied for such lands. As there is no water in the tanks, wells do not have any springs. There are no streams to supply water to tanks which have to depend on rain water. There is a vanka or ‘yeru’ within a distance of three miles from the village, connected by an undulated canal and if it is repaired, the tanks will get ample supply of water. There are yerus like Gogilamma yeru by the side of the Kokkirirati konda, Dhama cheruvu, etc., which, if repaired, will supply water for fifty or sixty villages in the estate. In our village, we started a ryots association and held a meeting. To repair the yeru it will cost about twenty thousand rupees. There will be good supply of water and all the villages in the Kalluru Estate will get benefited. Repairs should be undertaken either by the Government or under its management. We have got dasabandham inams under some tanks, where we enjoy only one-fourth



share. Repairs need not be done by us as there is a condition that one-fourth 'tiruva' should be given to us to defray repair charges. If water is full, it will yield only two parts. Water rates are charged even in case of dasabandham tanks, and the estate has no right whatsoever to do so. If more crops are grown they take all without giving us. We must be given all portions in dasabandham tanks subject to inundation are also granted on pattas. The proprietor has been leasing out tank beds on pattas for the last five or six years. We have not questioned the same, nor sent any notices. We have to go to Courts. We have sent a petition to the Collector. Recently we have started a ryot's association; and resolutions were passed. The proprietor has sent memos. to the village munsifs and karnams. There is a forest near our village. After we started the association, we are not allowed to step into the forests, nor permitted to take leaves, agricultural implements and fuel, etc., from the forest. Trees are not allowed to be felled. Forests are thus closed to us since the last two months. All this is the outcome of the ryots' giving expression to their grievances in the public. Exasperated at our actions, fifty or sixty estate people came and drove all our sheep to the cattle-pound on the pretext that they had entered the forests. We are prevented from taking fuel and nothing is allowed to be taken out. Ryots are put to great troubles. Ryots have lost all enthusiasm and are much disheartened now. As the meeting is convened on behalf of the Congress, we are asked to get our rights from the Congress. Forests are excluded to us. Having no fuel, we are forced to resort to kancha, etc., for cooking purposes. Ours is a big family and two or three cart-loads of fuel is required for our domestic consumption and till recently the same was being taken from the forests. Now I am obliged to pay and get the fuel from panchayat forest nearby and I am now filing the receipts. The estate is bringing pressure on them also and we are now deprived of getting fuel even from that source. The panchayat is thus forced to refuse fuel to us by the estate. Though pattas are granted twenty or thirty years back, they are not given in the names of those to whom they have been granted. There is not even one patta in the name of the present ryot's father at least. Argis and notices have been resorted to. Each ryot does not know how much land he owns. No information is given, even if asked for. Notices are not replied. We have sent notices through the Zamin Ryots Association. We are put to all these troubles with a spirit of vindictiveness as we have started ryots' association. Even though we request, no action is taken. Karnams and munsifs have joined hands with them. Sri Pillai, karnam of Varkayalavaripalle village, told us that pattas would be transferred on payment of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200. When they are pressed to comply with our request they get angry and begin to persecute us in all ways. We have put in a petition to the Collector. Estate have kept people to beat us. We have sent a stamped petition to the Collector requesting for police help. Resolutions were sent through post but they have been returned, asking us to report to the local police. In Kallur village, fair is held on every Thursday. From the ryots that came to sell vegetables on that day, they carry away a part in the name of 'nagarri pasika' 'tota pasika' 'talari bhogam'. If the ryots refuse, they will throw away all the things. If the proprietor is not given his 'mamuls,' all the vegetables will be thrown out. They do all this bearing some malice in their minds. Service inams are not surveyed. They want us to do all services, threatening us with resumption of service inams in case of failure. They have no right to do so. Distraints are resorted to for arrears of collection. Bullocks, house-hold implement, ploughs are all attached and sold. We must be helped by penalising all such proceedings. Lands are not surveyed till now. They say that they have done ajamaish for some lands. As a result of the ajamaish, they have now shown 50 per cent increase in the area of the old extent. They are charging the usual rates for the rest of the lands. Atrocities of this sort are also being done. We are not allowed to take even logs of firewood from the forests. Previously we were taking the same from the forests. Ever since we were in strained relations with them, they were putting all these restrictions. Ryots are seriously hardput and our rights may be restored to us. If the estate does not take up to dig the canal, the Government may get it dug and help the ryots. When patta applications are made for waste lands, karnam bargains whether we would give Rs. 50 or Rs. 60. In addition to this, we have to pay a premium to the proprietor—a premium which he will fix up at his pleasure. Even though we till the land for two or three years, we are asked to quit whenever they are displeased with us. We must be helped from troubles of this nature. Lands are taken from us by force also. Estate must undertake the repairs of dasabandham tanks. When less extent is cultivated remission must be given. When the ryots want to sell their land, they are unable to know the extent of their lands. It is my experience that karnams never give proper information when asked about the extent of lands. There are several hardships like these. On account of the proprietor's persecutions and the karnams joining hands with them we are put to all these sufferings. These things must be put a stop to and the ryots be helped. They have been collecting fees for issuing permits even from poor people for the last two or three months. It is very difficult to go out of the town. We are in great troubles.

Files a memoranda.



Witness No. 289.

Madras.

25th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Potnuri China Appala Narasimham, son of Lakshminarayana,  
Santa Kaviti, Bobbili estate.

Q.—What are the papers that you are giving? A.—These are pattas. They show the extent of the land. It belongs to Bobbili. I have purchased them after paying the nazrana of Rs. 2,000. They cover 30 acres of wet land under the river Nagavali.

Q.—What is the yield? A.—I got thirty garces of paddy. The price of paddy is now Rs. 64 per garce.

Q.—Do you cultivate your lands yourself? A.—Yes. I also let a portion of them. The cultivation expenses come to Rs. 10. All the land I have is wet land.

Q.—Have you got any thing else to say? A.—There are some kadapas. I am filing them. There are some kadapas given by my under-tenants. I have purchased lands from the ryots and leased them. I purchased them ten years ago, and got leases. One kadapa shows a rent of Rs. 1,000; the other shows a rent of Rs. 1,500.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—What is meant by nazrana lands? Are they bunjars? A.—No. I purchased lands which were under cultivation. The lands were purchased by the estate in the court auction. I paid the premium; and took them.

Q.—How much rent do you pay? A.—I pay Rs. 718.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What is meant by zamindar's lands? Do they belong to him? A.—They are lands delivered by the ryots to the zamindar for arrears of rent; and I have purchased these lands.

Q.—What are the cultivation expenses per acre? A.—An acre requires puttie of seeds. Usually twenty putties are required for 30 acres. I incurred an expense of Rs. 1-4-0 for the removal of leaf, etc.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—How many ploughs do you require? A.—I plough three times before the transplantation. Each plough, I have to hire for 12 annas.

Q.—What are the coolie wages? A.—I pay 2 annas a coolie, and 8 annas per plough; Two ploughs are enough for one acre. So I incur Rs. 1-8-0 for plough per day.

Q.—How many coolies are required for transplantation? A.—Twelve persons are required. I pay them As. 0-1-6 per coolie.

Q.—How many times do you remove the weedlings? A.—Only once. Five persons are required per acre. Eight persons are required for cutting the harvest. Each coolie takes two kunchams of paddy. On the average it comes to one puttie.

Q.—How much do you spend for the threshing and for the cattling? Have you included these also in your list of expenses? A.—Yes.

Q.—How do you feed the cattle? A.—There is the old grass and also the grass on the field bunds.

Q.—Have you included the expenditure on calves? A.—Yes.

Q.—What are the expenses for water distribution? A.—Only one man is kept for the purpose. I give him fifteen putties of paddy for the year. He also does work in respect of other lands. This I have not included in my list of expenses. If the cattle are young, they will remain 10 years.

Q.—I think you are giving the figure out of ignorance. Don't the expenses go high? A.—Yes.

By Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Since how many years have you had these 60 acres of land? A.—Since thirty years. These are my ancestral lands.

Q.—Are you engaged in money transactions? A.—Two brothers quarrelled among themselves and the zamindar sold their lands for arrears. In that state we purchased them.

Q.—Have you purchased these lands in your management? A.—The lands covered by the sale-deed filed by me are purchased by me.

Q.—When did you purchase them? A.—In 1937, after paying the premium.

Q.—When did these cowles come into existence? A.—There are old ones.

Q.—Are they registered cowles? A.—They are unregistered ones.



Witness No. 291.

Madras.

25th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kanderu Muniswami Nayudu, son of Narasappa Nayudu of Vepagunta formerly Karvetinagar zamin now Tirupati estate.

The witness began by saying that the cropwari rents are causing great loss to the ryots.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—Till now Mr. Nayudu is deposing to these things. You need not repeat them? A.—I have some pattas : I am filing them (filed). In fasli 1327, it is number 160 aravasi. Aravasi means third class. Fifty-five guntas. It is classified like that. It is under a makta of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  varam. Class means tharam. Third class means third tharam. Now the rate is converted into Rs. 13-4-0 per hundred guntas. Formerly, it was Rs. 15 or Rs. 17 for five guntas. After the Estates Land Act was passed, with regard to the cultivation, under wells there were several rent suits. What we paid was accepted. Our appeal is that, with regard to these lands under well irrigation also, the rates existing prior to the passing of the Estates Land Act, should be enforced. I am filing one copy of a judgment. Before the passing of the Estates Land Act, there were cropwari rents. I have filed also the pattas. Now new pattas have come into force.

Q.—You say that in spite of the decision of the court, in your favour, a high rate is collected from you, for the simple reason that you have no records. Is that your point? A.—Yes. The cropwari rents must be abolished and the old rates for well irrigation must be restored. The punja rate only must be collected.

Q.—Do you say cropwari rates are just? A.—No. They should be changed.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—As you have sunk wells at your own expense, your point of view is that dry rates must be collected and not the wet rate.

Q.—What is decided in that judgment? A.—The judgment says that only the punja rate should be collected.

Witness No. 292.

Madras.

25th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Gujjalapudi Venkata Subba Nayudu, son of Rama Nayudu, Punnapalli, Venkatagiri estate.

By the CHAIRMAN : Q.—What have you got to say? A.—The basis of assessment in our estate was on the average calculated upon the gorru. One gorru is equal to six acres. The rate was fixed per gorru.

Q.—When was the system in force? A.—This was in force till fasli 1305. Subsequently these were converted into the acreage basis. And the extent also was increased on survey. Thus these rates have been enhanced gradually.

Q.—Have you got any papers relating to the average assessment on the basis of gorru? A.—Yes, I shall file them. At the time of the original settlement of our estate, its income was  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, as I have been told. After a few years it has risen to 11 lakhs. The increase was gradual.

Q.—In which year was the increase made? A.—It was done before the new survey, and after the survey it was increased to 18 lakhs.

Q.—When was the survey made? A.—It was in 1916. The increase in rent was not entirely due to the increase in the extent of cultivation; and it was only due to the enhancement of rents. In the village of Attivaram, the demand was Rs. 1,816-2-1, road fund Rs. 86-2-2; patta fund As. 10-9; kollu Rs. 1,809-8-0. The kancha rent was Rs. 156. This is in fasli 1302. The rates of assessment were as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
First taram (dharma gorru) ... ..	52	4	0
Second taram ... ..	46	2	0
For the third taram ... ..	35	10	0
For the fourth taram ... ..	35	2	0
For the fifth taram ... ..	25	0	0
For the sixth taram ... ..	24	0	0
For the seventh taram ... ..	94	0	0
For the eighth taram ... ..	16	0	0

The same rate continued in 1904 also. The dittam register is filed. In fasli 1305, the cropwari rates came into existence. In fasli 1320 the wet demand was Rs. 1,934-6-0. But the kancha rent was enhanced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 500. By kancha rent is meant, the rent which is payable for grazing the cattle.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—When did you say, the kancha rate was Rs. 150? A.—In fasli 1305.



Q.—Can you give me the extent in acres? A.—I do not know. I have to see the dittam.

Q.—You say the zamindar together with the ryots increased it? A.—Yes. The kancha land is not given on pattas. It is given to the village as a whole for purposes of grazing the cattle. In 1302, the magani rents began to be assessed on the basis of acreage on account of that. The following rates were imposed:—

Rs. 8-4-5, Rs. 8-0-0, Rs. 7-8-4, Rs. 7-0-0, Rs. 5-15-0 and Rs. 2-10-8.

On account of that the demand increased to Rs. 2,794. The increase was Rs. 550. That is not a patta land; but is auctioned from time to time. The increase made by the zamindar is Rs. 500.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do you say that if you cultivate a portion, the rent is calculated upon the whole extent. A.—Yes. All the waste lands in the village are combined together and auctioned. The cattle of the other neighbouring villages are not allowed by us. We do not allow even our cattle into the neighbouring villages. The kancha sist was Rs. 456-12-0 in 1320 fasli. It is now Rs. 6,800 now. In those days, the rates were enhanced by assigning at the rates of Rs. 55, Rs. 6, Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 9 and Rs. 10 on pattas. The ryots refused to take these pattas. Thereupon, the pattas were tendered and the suits were filed.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU : Q.—Do you pay in cash as hitherto? A.—Yes. It is the wet rate that has been enhanced. Now it is Rs. 60 per gorru. Hitherto it was Rs. 52 per gorru. The ryots refused. And suits were filed against them. Some ryots were won over by the zamindar. In this way, the rents were enhanced in the several villages. The increase was not due to any improvement affected by the zamindar. But only on account of coercion. They are good rivers in the taluks of Mallam and Polluru. The old irrigation channels have gone out of repair. The present zamindar has not constructed any new water sources except in the village of Attivaram. But I do not know it personally. The old tanks are absolutely out of repair.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—How many tanks are there in your village? A.—There are four. Fifty or sixty years ago the sluices went out of repair.

Q.—Did you put in any petition that the repairs should be affected? A.—We are not educated. No remissions are given to us.

Q.—What have you done then? A.—We were prepared to put a petition before the Collector.

Q.—Have you not got irrigation channels from the river? A.—Yes; but they are out of repair. In 1930, we put in a petition before the Collector. Nothing has been done. We went to the Diwan; then the Diwan told us that we would make such representations whenever we were sists. On one occasion, the Diwan came and inspected and got an estimate prepared in order to appease the ryots. About three-fourths of the earth work was done. Then a new Diwan was appointed; and the work was stopped. The sluices remain in the same condition. The ayacut is about 500 acres. We have paid the entire rent. And for the balance auctions are proceeding. Some lakhs were spent upon the irrigation channels, which supply water to Meenakuru, Beemavaram, Chigurupadu, Timmaji Khandrika, Kunnepalli also. This has been out of repair for about thirty years. We have been making the representations to the Raja. When we went to the Raja, the police were called in to arrest us. And when we were loudly protesting, he said he would send his Diwan. In 1920, we started, the Zamin Ryots' Association; and we agitated through that association. When we were protesting, the estate promised to effect the repairs. Estimates were thereafter prepared; but no money was given; and it was said that if we agreed to pay a higher rent they would affect the repairs. We said we could not do so. Then they began the repairs. The channel became useless on account of the fact that it was out of use for more than fifteen years.

By the ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM : Q.—Is your tank watered from the channel or not? A.—Yes. It is coming.

Q.—How much water is coming? A.—Not enough for the crops.

Q.—Is it out of repair? A.—We have ourselves constructed crossbunds. There is a difference of 3 feet between the river and the channels. But a small outlet is allowed into the old channel. Our village requires watering for fifteen days to water all the fields. But the water in the channel is not enough even for one village. Within five miles of our village, the channel has become levelled with the neighbouring lands. When we represented that at least our tank should be filled up, the zamindar sent a supervisor to prepare an estimate, but nothing was done.

Q.—Is it your case that no water is coming? A.—We do not want water in the rainy season. We want it afterwards.



By Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What are the rates in the Government villages? A.—There Rs. 4, Rs. 5 and Rs. 6 rates and for lands under the tanks our rates are Rs. 8, Rs. 9 and Rs. 10. We have also put in a petition respecting the tank. Before 1305, the rates in our village, Punnepalli, were Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 for gorru.

(Re-called and examined.) Yesterday I spoke about the tanks. There are no proper sluices to the tanks, no proper repairs and water is not retained and there are no good doors. No proper repairs are carried out to the tanks. An extent of 30 acres of land inside the tank of Venkataramapalle had been granted for cultivation. We filed notices and issued notices. Some were dismissed. We withdrew some. Though there are decrees in some cases they are remaining still.

No repairs were made for a breach in 1925. In 1908 an old sluice was repaired. No other repairs are made up till now. (He filed a petition.) The rate on the patta was raised from Rs. 9 to Rs. 10. (I am filing the same as an exhibit for having enhanced the rate.) A fresh patta was granted in 1284 fasli for patta No. 9 with enhanced rates. A third column had been added in the patta. (I am filing the patta.) In fasli 1287 a fourth condition had been included in patta No. 72. (I am filing the same.) In 1294 fasli three new columns (5), (7), (8) had been added. (I am filing patta.) In 1295 fasli, cropwari rates were imposed by Diwan Raghavendra Rao. (I am filing patta No. 69.) In patta No. 86, a tenth condition was added though all others are the same.

To a question by the Raja of Mirzapuram, the witness said that he would file the latest patta to show the change.

In 1296 there was a change of Diwans and there are signatures of two Diwans in the pattas granted.

In fasli 1303 the same state of affairs continued when the Diwan was Narayana-swami Nayudu Garu, B.A. In 1311 the Diwan was B. Mahadevayya Garu.

No. 9 patta was newly created and cropwari rate had been assessed:—

Tobacco Rs. 21-4-0, chillies Rs. 8-8-0.

Turmeric Rs. 14 and sugarcane Rs. 17.

A new condition had been added in column (2). A water-cess of Re. 1 was assessed for cultivating sajja, korra, etc. They had begun to collect this cess from that time. It is seen that there is enhancement in that fasli.

In 1316 fasli—columns (18)—(19) remained the same and there are no changes. In fasli 1322 they had begun to assess Rs. 80, in columns (25), (26), for betel gardens. Rupees 5 was enhanced per acre. Rs. 90 tax on hedging lands had been collected even for forest areas. It is for grazing and not for cultivation that they have charged. In this fasli the tax has come up to Rs. 200. In fasli 1314 it was Rs. 90; now it has increased to Rs. 200. This water-cess whole is in Yenugunta. There is no record for this. For kanche in Gundangi village the tax was Rs. 134-14-0 from 1916. I cannot even approximately tell the extent. The estate authorities took possession and sublet it to others. They did not sell it. For a pipe 100 years old, to the tank in Ungutur there are no repairs at all. They had granted remission in 1313, 1336, 1342, 1346 only but never more.

The estate was gradually enhancing taxes like this. No water sources were improved or repaired. They made us subject to many difficulties by enforcing the joint patta system. If we put in petitions for separation of pattas they create differences between the ryots to serve their own purpose and not separating pattas. They are crippling the ryots by instituting criminal proceedings against them. They are fostering parties and factions in every village. They do not allow us to be united. They create parties even in villages in which there are no troubles at all. Even though the ryot improves and brings dry land to yield they charge mulum rate for it. Of late they had given sukti remission. There must be full provision in the Act for granting remissions.

They had instituted criminal cases to coerce the ryots into submission in the villages of Mopuru, Attivaram, Kaminenipalle, Kotapoluru, Mulanganur.

We cannot live in the estates and we would like to be under Government administration. We think that the Government administration is orderly, if not it is no use. However strong the zamindari ryot may be, if he speaks against the zamindar, his name is entered in the rebels' register and he is often punished for nothing and is drawn to courts for cowing him down. The Tahsildar and peons and all others combine in troubling him by not giving water for crops and not allowing his cattle to graze, etc. Sometimes they even get him beaten, if possible. Some have left the villages unable to bear the troubles. I do not know for what help done to them the English Government handed us over to zamindars like these. I am not able to solve, in spite of serious thinking, why the Government had handed over a portion of the vast land to the zamindars. We think it is our karma. I do not know why the Government, unable to collect taxes perhaps, had given



over such an extent of land into the hands of the zamindars. Can they not collect the kist from the zamindari areas when they are able to do the same over a vast area. We must have committed a great sin. I am speaking about all zamindaris, not ours alone. All the zamindaris must be abolished. In all of these the troubles are similar. The Government must take possession of all these zamindaris.

To questions by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the witness said :

There are about two or three hundred cattle in Mugallu and 2,000 acres of kanche. I never instigated the ryots not to pay taxes of the estate in any meeting. I am always paying my taxes regularly. I was never in arrears.

The new conditions included in the present pattas can be seen in the new pattas. You can get them from the zamindars and see. We have not got them. I do not know that new pattas were being granted for the last ten years. There are old pattas. New pattas had not been granted for a long time. I am ignorant of any single case where a new patta had been granted taking back the old one. As far as I know no new pattas seem to have been granted during the last fifteen years. They might have granted new pattas in one village on the whole estate. If so they may file it. We could not get a copy even though we tried our best. Pattas were not granted from 1916. From that date up to this day the pattas were not changed.

They are collecting fees even for trees. We are unable to pay these taxes. I am a member of the Ryots' Association since 1931. I am not the President, nor the Secretary. Majority of the ryots wish the expiry of the zamindari rule and the institution of the Government supremacy in its place. There is a gulf of difference between the state of the Government ryots and the zamindari ryots. The Government ryots are happier than us. The ryots did not send me to represent them but I know their difficulties and ideas. I conversed with many ryots. You may enquire if you want. It is said that some of the wealthy ryots who pay a great amount as taxes wish to persist under the zamindari rule. But I say with certainty that nobody really wishes to be so. Only about ten people per every estate may wish that the zamindari rule may exist for ever, because they are dependant on the zamindars. Certainly the welfare of the others is of greater importance than that of ten people—a microscopic minority.

Even the British control is found fault with; but it is certain that when compared with the zamindari rule the rule of the British Government is a paradise. We are feeling life to be a bore. Is there nobody to come to our rescue? Several big families have been ruined by the zamindars.

The labour socialists are advocating equal distribution of property. We prefer that to this zamindari hegemony. Anything on earth will be better than this.

We are not free to give evidence before you. The landholders are threatening to ruin us. I don't know what is going to be the result of my deposing here. I am afraid of any harm from them. They may file any criminal suit against me for speaking before you. For fear of all this many ryots have not come to depose.

Witness No. 293.

Madras.

26th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chaganty Seshayya, Tanedar of Kapileswarapuram estate, East Godavari district.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he stated, one *veesam* is about 2 acres and 56 cents. If the power of distraint is taken away, the zamindar cannot collect even a single pie.

Questioned by Mr. M. Pallam Raju, he stated, at the time of the permanent settlement garden crops were greatly in existence.

Q.—When did the present rates come into existence in the estate of Kesanakurru?—  
A.—1852.

Q.—What is the extent of the private land of the zamindar in Kesanakurru? A.—  
Five hundred acres.

Q.—Is there any wet cultivation? And what is the net income from it? A.—Eight to ten bags is the income.

Q.—What is the selling price? A.—This year the price obtained is Rs. 4-4-0.

Q.—What is the rate at which the amarkam is made? A.—Eight bags.

Q.—Is it not the case that the yield does not exceed the taxes payable? A.—No. The ryot has got something after paying the rents.



Q.—Are the ryots in Kesanakurru estate prosperous? Or, are they in a declining condition? A.—They are not in a declining condition. Their condition is the same as that of the ryots in the neighbouring villages. The lands in the Kesanakurru estate are very valuable.

Q.—Is it the price of 1921-22 which you are referring? A.—The price of lands in the Kesanakurru estate varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 800, to-day.

Q.—How did the 500 acres come into private cultivation? A.—The ryots in order to evade the payment of the money due under the mortgage bonds have done so; and when we (that is, the estate) purchased them, they have again taken leases in the name of their relatives and their wives.

Q.—Is it not true that, in your estate, the rents are higher than the yields of the lands? A.—Rents for two years or three years have been accumulated.

Q.—Let us assume that there is a piece of land under a patta; and, if you take the average upon each acre, don't you think that the rent will be excessive? A.—No.

Q.—Is it not true that in respect of the villages sold in the early stages of the Peddapuram samsthanam, when the peshkash was not high, their peshkash was subsequently enhanced? A.—No.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—Did you experience difficulty in the matter of collection of cist? You don't require any additional hands? A.—Not much difficulty. No appreciably extra strength is needed.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—You have said that you have strengthened the Godavari bunds by planting *rellu*? A.—Yes. To prevent the inundation of the embankment, we did so.

Q.—On account of that both you as well as the ryot have profited? Have you given Rs. 10,000 for the upkeep of the school in your village? A.—The zamindar has given Rs. 5,000 and also met the cost of equipment; and the villagers also contributed Rs. 5,000.

Q.—You said in your memorandum, that remission is given in the lankas? Don't the Government also give remissions similarly and are they not auctioned lankas? A.—There are no remissions in auction lankas. Generally there will be no necessity for remissions in auction lankas.

By Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG: Q.—What was the rate of rent in 1802? What is the present rate? Have you got any documents? A.—No.

Q.—Can you give me the rate of rent? A.—No.

Q.—Don't you have separate accounts for demand and collection? A.—Yes.

Q.—Is not the rate of rent high? A.—No.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Is the rent same in your zamindari villages, as in the Government villages? If a uniform rate is imposed by the Government, have you got any objection? A.—There is no use. On the other hand, if a settlement is made. In that case, it will be alright. If it is done as in the Government villages, I fear lands, which will not yield well, may be taxed high; and lands which yield well, may be taxed less.

Q.—What is the yield per acre? A.—About fifteen to twenty bags.

Q.—What are the cultivation expenses? A.—Ten to fifteen rupees.

Q.—Are all your rents cash rents? A.—Yes.

By Mr. M. PALLAM RAJU: Q.—Have you imposed excess water-tax? A.—Yes.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—Have you got any objection, if the instalments are made payable as in the Government areas in the months of January, February and March? A.—If we do not collect the rents at the time of the harvest, the ryot will spend away all the money; and, we will have to wait, till the next year.

Q.—Have you assigned cremation grounds in the village of Vadapalem for rent? A.—No. We did not do so. On the other hand, we have assigned more land as the cremation ground.

Q.—Have you encroached upon tank-beds in the village of Ellakuppa? A.—No.

Q.—Is your estate surveyed? A.—There is no survey. But, wet lands have been surveyed. Dry lands have not been surveyed. The survey was done for purposes of water rate; and so the Government bore the expenditure and did it.

Q.—When you have got power to proceed against the land of the year, don't you think, it is injurious to proceed against their movable property? A.—There is no such injury. If we cannot have any coercive powers, we have to go to the civil courts.



Q.—Have you no power to attach the lands? A.—It can be done only next year. But, for the current year, it is of no use.

Q.—Have not the Government been paying salaries to the village officers? A.—Yes.

Q.—Don't the village officers make the collections for you? A.—They take 10 per cent of the collections and they give the balance to us.

Q.—You said that you cannot attach lands for the current year. Why? A.—We have to wait till the end of April, and then we can attach in the month of May. Then again there is a lot of expenditure involved in the bringing of the lands to sale. Every one whose name is noted in the pattas, has got to be served a notice.

Q.—Do you say that the expenses involved in the procedure of bringing the lands to sale are high? A.—Every ryot has got to be given a registered notice; and we have to make a publication of it in the district gazette.

Q.—Have you to pay Rs. 6-4-0 for this? A.—Yes.

Q.—What is the amount of arrears in your estate? A.—There are no arrears.

Q.—How many lands belonging to the ryots have come into your possession between the years 1930-38? A.—Since the passing of the Estates Land Act, 600 acres have come into the possession of the estate; while the estate assigned 2,400 acres.

By the CHAIRMAN: Q.—How many villages are there in your estate? A.—Twelve villages.

Q.—What is the income? A.—The income of Kapileswarapuram is Rs. 46,000. The income of Kesanakurru is Rs. 32,000.

Q.—Are the ryots indebted in your estate? A.—In Kapileswarapuram, there is Land Mortgage Bank and the debts are owing to that bank. In other villages also there may be some indebtedness.

Q.—How much money is owing to the Land Mortgage Bank? A.—About Rs. 20,000. The bank is in Alamuru.

Witness No. 295.

Madras.

26th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. P. Gopala Raju, Manager, Kirlampudi estate.

To questions put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness who deposed in English all the time, the manager of Kirlampudi estate, West Godavari district, gave the following replies in Telugu.

The kist on patta No. 1 in Velanka village is Rs. 894-15-5. We are collecting Rs. 978-12-10 adding Rs. 83-14-5 on the original at As. 1-6 per rupee. It cannot be said what extent of wet land is there. There are Government ryotwari land adjacent to it. As far as I know the rate is Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 per acre. It is difficult to say what it is for wet lands. The yield is eighteen or twenty bags per acre. Two crops are grown. The expenses incurred by the ryot for cultivation comes to Rs. 4. Then if there is necessity they have to spend Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. I did not get the details. The kist prevalent on ryotwari lands cannot suitably be collected from them. The Government system is different from zamindari system. There is land under private ownership. The Government can afford to be more liberal. They are intrinsically different systems.

To questions put by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig the witness said: The Government had given some rights in permanent settlement. The taxes were fixed and the Government had surrendered existing rights. It does not apply to waste lands. The Government granted the existing privilege to the ryots. They calculated a share of gross income and granted. A part of the income was transferred and given. It was given on the condition of paying revenue peshkash and enjoying. We granted remission in our estate once two or three years back. We grant it only if there is failure of crops. I cannot say without seeing the accounts whether we had granted remission or not to Kottur village. I have been administering for the last one year. As a compromise and in lieu of the enhanced rate of As. 1-6 we had granted remissions for two or three years.

To questions by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness said: The crops under Eleru river fail except under extraordinary circumstances. They had carried to the High Court about the Eleti water and higher water-cess. We had granted remission of the enhanced amount out of grace. The whole thing was written off. Even though the High Court decreed in our favour we had remitted considering the difficulties of the ryots. It is but just that remission should be granted if the crop is only five-sixteenth. But that should not be the settled system. It is under the system of giving time for collection in subsequent years. In the case of partial crops no remission need be granted on principle. No such situation arose up till now. There are about thirty estates in our estate—big and



small together. Recturring repairs are being carried out to them every year at an expense of Rs. 4,000. During the last nine years the amount was spent only in one or two years. There are Eleru project, but it costs much to make them permanent sources. There are cross dams which are being washed away in floods and have to be repaired every year. K. Ramanna Garu used to be in Pittapur estate originally. He had kept a private diary which is used as an authority. It is followed in all the estates where the Eleru flows as an authority. I do not know if there is acre rate or not. There is the system of distribution of water. Jagapati village is a Government village adjacent to the estate. There, the rate is from Rs. 13 to Rs. 15. Though there are joint pattas in our estate we had separated them in cases where there was a request to that end. We have no objection at all for separating pattas. Survey is not made as yet and it is easy to separate pattas after the survey. It may cost some lakhs for conducting the survey. It is better to have a survey but it is very difficult to meet the expenditure. It is easy to separate pattas if an extent of 30 acres is to be equally divided among three pattadars. If not there may be troubles. Muntangi and Alapaka villages belong to the estate of Arempudi which is in the possession of our Raja's sons. Suits were filed about the enhancement of rates but there was compromise entered into at 8 annas. The suits in the case of Totapalle estate were carried to the Privy Council but in the end there was a compromise. From that time it is not being collected.

There are no forests in our estate. All is fertile soil and so there are no forest cases. Suits were filed about fencings in Arempudi which were settled by compromise in the end.

I have gone through the quit-rent inam patta shown to me. It was changed into jirayati land—so it seems. Occupancy right was given after resettlement in fasli 1326. The ryots and zamindars came to a compromise and occupancy rights were granted on specific contract basis.

Witness No. 296.

Madras.

26th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Arumuga Gounder, son of Srinivasa Gounder, of Veerapandi village, Vettavalam zamin, Tirukkoyilur taluk, South Arcot district.**

*General facilities.*—The witness complained lack of general facilities to ryots.

*Rates.*—Wet rates prevailing in the village are Rs. 10, Rs. 12 and Rs. 18 per acre. Dry rates range from Rs.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  and Rs. 2 to Rs. 20 per acre. Witness showed a patta in support of his statement. Wet rates in adjacent ryotwari areas are only Rs. 6 and Rs. 7. The abovementioned zamin rates are only for single crops. For second crops an additional tax known as "boomi-vasi" is levied. The witness stated that the zamin lands could command better irrigation facilities but the tank was not properly repaired.

*Enhancement of rent.*—The witness deposed that rents were enhanced about ten years ago. Formerly the rate of assessment per cawnie was Rs.  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , which was raised to Rs. 6. The witness did not produce any record to prove his statement.

*Irrigation facilities.*—The witness stated that the tank in the village was in a bad state of repair and wanted that the irrigation source should be repaired as it is done in Government areas.

*Collection of rent.*—Rent is not collected in proper time. The witness complained that for arrears of rent, cattle were distrained during rainy season causing much inconvenience hardship and loss to the ryots. The witness wants that the system of collecting rent obtaining in ryotwari areas should also be adopted in the zamin.

*Transfer of pattas.*—The witness said that transfer of pattas is possible only if karnam and other village officers are paid Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3. Complaint about this to the zamindar brought no relief.

*Survey and settlement.*—The witness deposed that the lands in the zamin were not surveyed and settled and prayed for early survey and settlement.

*Private lands of the zamindar.*—The zamindar owns private lands which he lets for cultivation at the rate of 25 kalams of paddy per acre for the first crop and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  kalams for the second crop. The witness complained that water was diverted to irrigate the private lands of the zamindar. He therefore wanted that an ayacut register should be maintained for irrigation purposes and a suitable plan formulated for the same.

*Income.*—There are 13 villages in the zamin and the income derived is Rs. 30,000.

*High-handedness of the zamin officials.*—The witness deposed that some of the ryots who made complaints against the zamindar were beaten and otherwise ill-treated by the estate subordinates.



Witness No. 297.

Madras.

26th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Swami Nayudu, son of Arunachala Nayudu, of Veerapandi, Vettavalam zamin, South Arcot district.

In the zamin, 40 cawnies of punja lands are generally leased for cultivation. Ryots have long complained to the zamindar that the custom of leasing lands causes strife and misunderstanding among ryots and that it should therefore be stopped. The zamindar however says that he is not to blame if there is no union among ryots.

There is often scarcity of water-supply as water is supplied to nanja and punja lands in an equal manner. Requests to stop water-supplies to punja lands are unheeded. A water-rate of Rs. 6 is levied on punja lands. For nearly thirty years, no repairs have been effected to the tanks. It will cost about Rs. 10,000 if repairs are to be effected now.

Mr. P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA : Q.—Do these conditions prevail only in your village or in all other villages? A.—There are four tanks in the zamin. There are no proper shutters to water-sluiques. If tanks breach, ryots themselves have to close the breaches.

Q.—For how many months does water in the tanks at their full capacity last? A.—It will last for nearly four months. If tanks are repaired properly it will be possible to raise two crops.

Q.—Have you sunk any wells? A.—No.

Q.—What is the condition of other villages? A.—It is the same as in our village.

The witness continuing stated that about two months ago a conference of ryots was held in his taluk, and that subsequent to that a few repairs were being made to the tanks, and that the estate had begun to repair the water-sluiques. According to the witness that was due to the fact that the Estates Land Act Committee was holding enquiry.

The witness, however, complained that cattle were distrained for arrears of rent and that hardships experienced by the ryots continued to be the same.

Q.—In how many instalments is the kist collected? A.—Instalment system is not followed in the zamin, though it is in vogue in ryotyari areas.

Q.—When do they begin to collect kist? A.—They begin collecting kist on February.

Q.—Within how many months they finish it? A.—No definite rule is followed.

The witness next complained that in the case of joint pattas, even the land of one who had paid rent was distrained to satisfy the dues of a defaulter. Petitions were sent by the ryots for issuing separate pattas. The zamindar had also issued orders to his subordinates to issue separate pattas. But the karnam and maniagar are not helpful unless they are paid Rs. 2-8-0 for every transfer of patta. The witness says that complaints were made to the zamindar who thereupon issued orders that pattas should be transferred free of any charge. But yet the zamin officials according to the witness make excuses and do not transfer pattas expeditiously.

To a question by a member of the Committee, the witness replied that the ryots were afraid to make further complaints against revenue inspector, karnam and maniagar as they had bonded themselves into a league. These officials report to the zamindar that separate pattas cannot be issued as joint pattadars quarrel among themselves and do not come to an unanimous understanding. Petitions to Collector share the same fate as the same excuses are given.

The witness further stated that it would be of great advantage if separate pattas are issued as every ryot will pay the kist due on his land, and have no further trouble. But under joint pattas, even the land of one who has paid rent is brought to auction to satisfy the arrears of a defaulter.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—Is notice served before distraint? A.—Demand notices are not issued. Lands are brought to auction after distraint. Notices are being served only this year. This is due to the fact that a meeting was held under the auspices of a ryots' association which we started recently and resolution was passed to the effect that demand notices should be served first. However, cattle are still distrained for arrears of rent.

Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR : Q.—Have you heard of the Debt Relief Act? What will be the amount of old arrears? Are old arrears being collected? Are there arrears for fasli 1345? A.—After the Act came into force, old arrears are not collected; nor demand notices are sent.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI : Q.—If rent for fasli 1346 and 1347 are paid, old arrears will be cancelled. Your association should make this known to ryots.



Witness No. 301.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. C. Venkatramana Rao, aged 56 years, son of Ramachandra Rao, Manager, Timmaji Amma estate, Kuppam, Chittoor district.

Before the year 1882, this village belonged to Kuppam estate. We have eleven villages. The income is Rs. 4,900 and the peshkash, Rs. 1,345-6-3. The Kuppam zamindar pays that amount. This has been possessed under an agreement. It was surveyed in 1899. No theerva (water-cess) is levied but paimash rate is adopted. Settlement is made. After the Privy Council decision, we got a forest of 3,000 acres. Of that unreserved part is 500 and reserved part is 2,500 acres. There are two or three tanks and pools. They are quite good. The old cess is continued to be levied still. The present zamindar took charge in 1920. The village munsifs are collecting the taxes. There are no quarrels or any such difficulties among us.

	RS. A. P.		
The rate for nanja ... ..	1	4	0
The maximum rate for nanja ... ..	12	0	0
Rate for punja ... ..	0	12	0
Maximum ... ..	5	0	0

Goats are not allowed to get into the reserve. We enforced the Forest Act in 1912. These rates are in force since 1882. They are not changed. Cattle are allowed to go into the unreserved.

Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do you have grazing grounds? A.—We have them in unreserve and porambokes. There is some difference between our portion and theirs. They have increased the taxes in some villages, subsequent to 1908. There is no such thing here. We did not lease it on contract. Before it came into his possession it was given on lease. There is Ekasahala in our village but no Dasa Sahala. We did not increase above the pymajohi rate. I do not know the rates existing previously, but we are collecting according to the list furnished to us; not more than that. There are twelve big tanks and two kuntas. There is one common tank for both the estates. Regarding the repairs, we share the expenditure with the zamindar. We pay from two to five hundred rupees per year for repairs. There are no complaints from the ryots. We have repaired the Dasabandham tank. We do not collect any money from the ryots towards the repairing charges. There is some quarrel between us and the inamdar.

Twenty-five per cent of our estate are joint pattas. It is difficult to separate them. We are trying to assess separately. Our villages have been surveyed by the Government. There are no nagad kists, khas kamatam and home farming. We give the cesses to the Government. Ours is a partible estate.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu, he said : We have got records about dasabandham. I have not brought them. They were given for making settlement of the tank. The dasabandham has been dug by the inamdars. They are in charge of the upkeep of it also. It is stipulated to be so. I shall submit those papers later on.

Witness No. 302.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Thota Munuswami Chetti, son of Papiiah Chetti, aged 50 years, Narasimhapuram, Karvetinagaram zamindari.

We get water for six months in the year. The water-cess is As. 2-4 for three thooms of grain. It has become wet now. (15 guntas=1 acre.) Whether the water is used or not, whether the crops are raised or not, the same rate must be paid. The same rate is levied for the waste lands also. The same rate even for the second part. In Chandragiri cases were filed and about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 were collected. (Filed agreement of fasli 1333.)

	RS. A. P.		
The total collection in—			
1281 ... ..	317	0	8
1282 ... ..	411	6	0
1283 ... ..	408	13	6
1289 ... ..	531	15	4
1290 ... ..	350	14	11
1291 ... ..	515	0	6
1346 ... ..	1,568	2	11

The high level lands have wells. The tax is Rs. 44 per acre.



The tax per one gunta of rice cultivated punja land is As. 5-3 : two padies in grain. Four padies as water rate : or Re. 1 making a total of Rs. 1-7-9. For our part also it is Rs. 1-7-9. It is Rs. 44-8-6 per acre.

Our village is not surveyed. The extent did not increase. But the cess is increased. There is no water-supply for nanja land. There are well for punja lands. The rate is As. 2-4 or Rs. 1-12-5 per gunta. Even if the other land is waste, they are collecting Rs. 53-4-6 per acre. We filed suits in the Chandragiri Courts complaining that the charges are high. They collected Rs. 1,200 from one ryot. They have not given our patta. They don't give receipts. They take jewels also in lieu of money payments. There are no tanks at all. (Files plaint.) The proprietor is making 'khasa kani' with every patta. (There is no "our land.") If we make late in payment, they appropriate the land to themselves. (Filed a document.) It is in Narasimharaju's land. Prior to this there is nothing like this. They have come to possess thirty years ago. Prior to him the amount was Rs. 1,200, but now it is Rs. 3,000. This is all due to levying unjust taxation (charges). Taxes have to be paid for cattle, waste land, wells and for porambokes also. There were hitherto three Brahman houses in the village, each family possessing forty or fifty guntas of lands. As they were not able to bear the heavy taxation, they left the village. Some ryots also have gone away. Properties were attached for Rs. 100 for a due of Rs. 50 only, and for Rs. 200 for a due of Rs. 100 only. We paid for fasli 1347 also. We don't have receipts, not even pattas. They will collect the charges whether there is any yield or not, whether there is water or not. The wet land is not getting water.

There are no tanks. The tank-beds are cultivated. There are no rivers. All is forest, dry and high level land. They don't change the pattas. They collect from the pattadar and the suitdar.

Replying to Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, he said : Of the 500 kuntas of punja, 100 have been sold by court. The ryots and the proprietor are friends. He has collected recently. This gentleman (pointing out Sri Parthasarathy Ayyangar of Chittoor) knows everything about this. The expenditure per acre is Rs. 70. Manure and everything inclusive it comes to 14 kalams. The cost is Rs. 56.

Witness No. 303.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Ganti Bhoganna, aged 38 years, son of Venkatesam, Manager, Baruva, Baruva estate, Vizagapatam district.

I don't have anything to say more than what is stated in the memorandum. (Filed orders of the Revenue Board regarding compromise.) In 1913, the ryots requested for a settlement and the settlement rates were fixed. Objections were raised. There was an increase of Rs. 2,000 in the total taxation. The Revenue Board was appealed to. Subsequently a compromise was filed. The collection for the two villages was Rs. 15,000. The Korlam people accepted the settlement, but the Baruva people appealed against it. Mahendra thanaya is our source of water. A petition was sent for not repairing the tanks in one year. Orders were issued stating that the proprietors were not lazy in repairing. The ryots must take out and remove 14 chains of sand and the proprietor must take the care of the canal. On their not doing so, it was dug on a side and water was taken. The Tahsildar and the Collector have inspected it. They opined that the ryots must do it, but yet the ryots have not done anything.

Questioned by the Chairman, he stated : The kist for the lands of the Mahendra thanaya is Rs. 28 per acre. There is a canal five and a half miles long. We acquired the estate in 1849. The zamindar has dug it. It is still existing. We are spending Rs. 800 per year for repairing it. The settlement of Mandasa was made in 1879. We get the lion's share of 1 garce per acre. The price of it is Rs. 70 according to the bazaar rate of our village.

Answering questions put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu :—

Barva Hunda—Khadanga's.

Peta Hunda—Bhakshi's.

This belongs to the Jaradavaru. The sanad was given in 1805. That a lease was given in 1805 is not true. The ryots sent a petition. The Collector has not given orders.



Bendala Lakshminarayana sent a petition. There was Prabhagi in olden days. It is still there for those that are not settled. There is prabhagi for 25 or 30 acres that are bought in auction. (Filed sanad.) We have got two villages.

	ACS.	
In Barua .. .. .	709·84	Wet lands.
	216·61	Dry lands.
	81·1	Wet watered by rain.
In Korlam .. .. .	250·99	Wet land.
	25·33	Dry land.
	29·9	Wet land watered by rain.

Total income, Rs. 21,000.

A part is prabhagi. It is in equal parts. Originally it was on lease.

In Buruva .. .. . 321 bandy .. .. . 15 Kunchams.

In Korlam .. .. . 150 bandies .. .. . Cash 2000.

Settlement Rs. 28 and in Barua—Rs. 21,000

17-7-0 in Korlam—

	RS.
Peishkush .. .. .	3,807
Cesses .. .. .	2,265

Settlement was made during the time of famine, i.e., when the prices are high. There are six tanks for Barua and four tanks for Korlam. We spend money for repairs. The ryots reported that the channel was not repaired. Repairs cannot be done then and there. Only the most urgent repairs can be conducted immediately.

By Mr. A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Q.—When did you repair the channel? A.—We are repairing every year. I shall send you the accounts. Some ryotwari lands are at a distance of five or six miles from our place. I don't know what the rates are there. The Mandasa Estate lands are nearby.

We don't have common lands. There are some in Peta. The estate porambokes are 224 acres in total. There are tanks in them. The tank-beds are not occupied. At present we did not increase the rates; nor did we give remissions. The ryots did not send any petition. Leases were given prior to settlement. One-third of the yield and some times half the yield was given, since 1876. Since 1857 to 1873 it is under the Court of Wards. The division took place in 1873. Till three years afterwards, the Tahsildar was in charge of that. I don't know the rate of the Court of Wards.

Questioned by Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: The settlement was made according to the prices of grains. They took an average of ten years' prices. The Government rate ranges from Rs. 5. I don't know the maximum rate. I know for certain that it will not be Rs. 28.

Interrupted by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: Bendala Lakshminarayana's statement that it is 8 annas and 12 annas is not a fact. The river water will not reach Manikya-puram, Gollagandi and Baluputtuka villages. There is no Government jirayati under Mahendrathanaya. The rate in Mandasa is Rs. 26 and Rs. 28 too.

Answering Mr. A. Rangaswami Ayyangar: The tank-beds are not given for lease. We have got a ryots' aid society. After institution of that the whole trouble arose. Till 1345 things were going on smoothly according to the Act. They have not paid for 1346 and 1347. I am not giving receipts. The proprietor is giving. The income for fasli 1345 was Rs. 8,000 and for the last fasli it was not even Rs. 6,000. Rs. 110 were collected. There was no collection for 1347.

The ryots were cultivating their own lands. There are two or three houses.

The tank repairs petition has been dismissed. We conduct repairs every year. The ryots have not rendered their share of the repairs. It costs Rs. 200 to repair an extent of ten chains. (Showed plans.) Our pattas including joint pattas amount to 294 in Barua and 160 in Korlam. I don't know the amount of the debts of the ryots. Approximately it is Rs. 4,000 in Barua and Rs. 1,000 in Korlam. We did not file any suit. There are none even pending. We have not resorted to litigation till now. The debts of the ryots are not due to the levy of Rs. 28. The yield amounts to Rs. 70. The expenditure per acre will be only Rs. 7 or Rs. 8. I don't cultivate the lands myself. By own cultivation, the proprietor gets thirty cart-loads of grain. We have given to the ryots to be cultivated according to the old rates.

	RS.	A.	P.
The cost of seeds per acre is .. .. .	2	0	0
„ „ manure .. .. .	2	8	0

Replying the Zamindar of Mirzapuram's questions: They don't sow throughout the acre. Only a part will be sown. I have no cultivation.



Witness No. 304.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Jagannadha Padhi Khadanga, son of Vasudeva Padhi Khadanga, aged 56 years, Peta Baruva.**

Baruva Hunda and Peta Hunda were in one estate. In 1873, it became two parts. Ours is not surveyed. There are three villages. Read out memorandum. Filed commutation judgment. We get a net income of Rs. 10,000 at present. We also get Rs. 160 cart-loads of grain. The Government cesses are being levied. The peshkash is Rs. 4,000 and the land cess is Rs. 1,460. The commutation rent is Rs. 28. For 7 or 8 acres, it is Rs. 30. It is Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 for some. The highest rate of Rs. 30 is levied for 10 acres only. Mahendrathanaya is the water-source. There are two tanks in Pottengi and two more in Bonkili. We are repairing often, jointly, each spending Rs. 400. In Bonkili we spent Rs. 200 for repairs. Balaramasagaram goes to the share of Pottengi. The Government village is five or six miles off. They are lands on the shore. It has got no name. Wells are dug. The rates are Rs. 4-8-0 and Rs. 5.

There are common lands. It was bushy in olden days. Second crops are raised. Earth is taken out of it. Even now we don't object to anybody's taking alluvial soil of it. All will take our permission and then only they take. We have got right over that. Mr. B. Lakshminarayana filed a suit in the Magistrate's Court. We won in Civil Courts. (The witness promised to send copy of the judgment.) They can sell the lotus flowers of the tanks. They can take grass. Strictly speaking, the villagers have no right over all these. We did not cultivate that. When the water dries, the ryots will cultivate and give us part of the yield. Boddu Venkayya is cultivating land near korlam. He has made it wet. The rate was Rs. 18. Now he is giving Rs. 30, a cart load of paddy, and some other charges.

Answering Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu : For lands that require water to be poured a low rate is levied. When the land is irrigated by a flow the rate is higher. The water rate is Rs. 4. I have got a muchilika granted by the Raja. I shall send that to you.

Witness No. 305.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Natesa Reddi of Alathur village, Chingleput district.**

The witness deposed that the village belonged to Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar; that he was the " zamindar " though the patta of the village was in the name of his brother.

*Irrigation facilities.*—The witness complained lack of irrigation facilities and said that the adjacent ' zamin ' villages and ryotwari villages were quite well off in that respect. The witness further stated that the ryots experienced great hardships owing to the irrigation sources being in a state of serious disrepair, it was ten years since any repairs were made to irrigation sources. In spite of repeated representations by the ryots the witness stated that nothing was done in this regard.

*Rates.*—The income of the village is about Rs. 2,500. Wet rates prevailing in the village range from Rs. 3½ to Rs. 10½—lands bearing an assessment of Rs. 10½ per acre from the major portion according to the witness.

Dry rates range from 8 annas to Rs. 2 per acre.

The witness said that about forty years ago ' waram-rent ' was in force on ' half-share ' basis. It was gradually converted into money rent. He also deposed that rates prevailing in adjacent ryotwari areas and shrotriyam villages were lower than those obtaining in his village.

*Litigation.*—The witness stated that about ten years ago, the ryots filed summary suits against the excessive nature of the rent. They were successful in the first two courts but the ' landholder ' won in the third court.

*Remission.*—The witness said that no remission is given even if crops fail.

*Tank-bed lands.*—The witness also deposed that tank-bed lands to the extent of about 200 cawnies have been assigned on patta.

*Grazing facilities.*—The witness said that there were no porambokes for grazing.



Witness No. 306.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chinakesavalu Nayudu, son of Varadappa Nayudu,  
Melapadu village, Saidapet taluk, Chingleput district.

The witness is a pattadar in Puliur village. Sri Venkataragava Ayyangar is the proprietor of the village.

*Rent.*—Fourth 'tharam' lands bear an assessment of Rs. 6-4-0 per acre. The witness complains that the rate is high. He has let his own lands for cultivation on waram basis. He gets to his share three cart-loads of paddy, i.e., two-fifths of the gross produce. He has recently improved his lands at a cost of Rs. 100. According to the witness, the yield of his land fetches about Rs. 90 while the expenses of cultivation, etc., come to Rs. 40.

*Irrigation facilities.*—The witness deposed that there were no irrigation facilities and that irrigation sources were in a bad state of repair and were not cared for. The witness also deposed that water-tax is levied from ryots even if they bale out water from their own wells.

Witness No. 307.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. P. S. Duraiswami Ayyangar, son of P. S. Varadachari,  
village No. 46, Pakkam shrotriyam, Chingleput.

*Early history of the village.*—In the year 1861, the East India Company conferred this village, as a pension-grant to be enjoyed for only three generations. Formerly waram system prevailed but it was, accordingly to the witness converted into money-rent about fifty years ago. Total area of the land is 1,728 acres and 4 cents.

*Income.*—The income of the village is Rs. 9,000. The amount paid by shrotriyamdar to the Government is Rs. 1,551-13-7.

*Rates.*—Wet rates range from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.

*Illegal collections.*—The amount collected under the heads of road cess and education cess is about Rs. 600. The witness complained that the whole cess was being collected from the ryots instead of the Shrotriyamdar contributing half of it. He further stated that the shrotriyamdar collected from the ryots Rs. 410 for road-cess while the amount actually paid to the Government was only Rs. 403. Similarly for education cess the amount collected was from Rs. 113 to Rs. 120 while the amount paid to the Government was only Rs. 75. The witness also deposed that in spite of the warning of the Collector, the shrotriyamdar continued making illegal exactions.

According to the witness in a summary suit filed by ryots, it was finally declared by the High Court that the levy of education-cess was illegal. The shrotriyamdar, however, continued collecting the cess by force and compulsion. The witness also said that the ryots were harassed for other illegal exactions also.

*Irrigation facilities.*—The witness stated that irrigation sources were not properly repaired and as a consequence the ryots suffered much for lack of irrigation facilities.

*Communal lands.*—There are no communal lands in the village for the benefit of the ryots. The witness stated that income from fishery was included in the common funds and utilized for the good of the villagers since 1932, the shrotriyamdar is claiming fishery rights also. The annual income from fishery is Rs. 1,500. According to the witness, temple lands in the village are not properly managed by the shrotriyamdar.

*Accounts.*—The witness stated that the karnam acted in collusion with the shrotriyamdar and that accounts were not kept properly.

*Distraint and sale of lands.*—Lands are auctioned without proper procedure and taken by the shrotriyamdar for nominal prices.

*General requests.*—The witness stated that the rates prevailing in the village were excessive. Rates in the adjacent ryotwari areas were only Rs. 2 and Rs. 3. The witness wanted that there should be reduction in rent. The village should be properly surveyed and settled. He also stated that demand notice for arrears of rent for certain faslis was sent contrary to the provisions of the Debt Relief Act. He wanted that this should be stopped.



Witness No. 308.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. P. Subba Rayudu, son of Rangappa, aged 45 years,  
Penumallam, Penumadam, Kalahasti estate.

Our village belongs to Parthasarathy Rayanamgar Garu. It was under share system of cultivation (Palu system). In fasli 1327, a cist began to be levied. The tank is repaired and a sluice is constructed. The cash payment of four tarams for nanja varies between Rs. 17, Rs. 12, Rs. 9, Rs. 6. For punja tobacco cultivation, it is Rs. 60, Rs. 43-8-0 if sugarcane is cultivated, and Rs. 23-13-8 if turmeric (పసుపు).

It has not been repaired. Though the Revenue Inspector came and inspected, it is not repaired. They promised to remove elevations in the tank. There is a land of 100 guntas under the tank. We are constructing bunds and cultivate the land. For want of repairs, both wet and dry lands are ruined. But the cess is very high. We entered into agreement with the zamindar. It is embodied in a patta. (Field patta.)

We are unable to pay the taxes. We request that the tanks may be repaired. The income for the three villages is Rs. 35,000. He has twenty villages. In Marlapaka also cess is levied.

The Chairman suggested if sharing would be better for them. A.—It is also disputed. We arranged that it should be twelve for them eight for us. In Gadhulamanyam the rate in nanja is Rs. 7, Rs. 5, Rs. 3 and Rs. 3, Rs. 2, Re. 1 for punja. There is no right over plants in fields. They are threatening us. The rate in Pennagadam is two thooms or one and half per gunta. Thus the ryots are troubled.

Witness No. 309.

Madras.

27th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. G. Rami Reddi, son of Krishna Reddi, aged 50 years,  
Papanaidupet, Mekalthur (Estate of M. Gurunadha Mudaliyar).

Before the Krodhana nama Samvatsaram Pennagadam was an amany village. It is stated in the mutchilaka that two thooms must be given per year, but it is not mentioned whether it should be given even if there is no yield.

(Filed unregistered muchilikas.) Read out clauses from a patta, dated 29th June 1937, and filed it. Pattas were issued even when they were not required.

1 thoom=24 measures of 70 Madras measures. The rate is Rs. 60 per one gunta. 1 gunta=10 cents and 10 guntas make 1 acre.

The witness read out conditions of patta of 1937 showing termwari rates in grain. In 1932, they filed a suit stating that a crop failed for want of water. Decree was given in Chandragiri. The suit was filed for the failing of crops valuing 24 measures at 72. We compromised when they asked for well. Read out notice and orders of proprietor there on refusing the compromise as unjust. We did not agree to pay on the crop. They did not give notice according to the Estates Land Act. They said we have no right. They said that we are responsible for the tax arrears of punja and the tax for the fasli 1345. They said that we will be held responsible for any loss that they may incur for collecting the taxes. (Filed it.)

There are no sluices for the tank. Own wells are the only source of water but still they filed suits for the payment of Rs. 110 to Rs. 120. They will take away rice if we don't pay. If that too is not sufficient, cattle will be taken away. They appropriate all movable property like cattles, vessels, etc. Our proprietor has four villages in Kalahasti, three in Karvetinagaram, and one in Papanaidupeta. The income is Rs. 6,000.

Pattas were given for burial grounds and Gobhoomula (grazing fields). Chennampalli belongs to Thirupathy M. Venkata Acharlu Garu. There is neither a canal nor a tank. Filed patta, dated 26th June 1903. He has not imposed any cess. Punja rate was levied. It is Rs. 20 per acre. We agreed for that. There are 17 conditions in the present patta. (The witness read out the clauses and filed it.) Grain (rice) must be measured by their measure. ("Showed by hand the increase in the measure.") There is no circular stamp on the measure. There is an extent of 2 acres of land for the 1,000 houses of the village. The area is not sufficient. The village is congested. There are no other lands. They used to take carrying charges for own cultivation. They used to share equal parts.



Witness No. 313.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Jwalapati Bhairaveswara Rao, Manager, Vuyyur estate.

For some time the witness gave evidence in English and afterwards continued in Telugu as follows :

Jamabandi faisala dowle kasaba Vuyyur Majukuru Sarkar Company.

Jamabandi fixed by Jandent, Esq., Collector of Masulipatam, for fasli 1236 (regarding the yield of Vyayanamasamvatsara) on the 11th July 1827 (Wednesday, Vidiya, Ashada, Sarvajitu-nama Samvatsara), at Masulipatam.

The area of the village is 350 kats. (One kat is 9 visams, 2 firs and 3 kans). The extent of the porambokes and tanks, etc., is 40 kats, 5 visams, 2 firs and 3 kans. Forests and gardens are 8 kats, 5 visams, 1 fira and 3 kans. The boundaries are 6 kats, 1 visam and 2 firs. The remaining cultivable dry seri land is 226 kats, 9 visams, 5 firs and half a kani. The inam lands pertaining to the seri of the minor zamindar are 76 kats, 9 visams, 13 firs and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a kani making a total of 226 kats, 9 visams and odd. Dry seri of kamatam Yeradalu 471 candies 11 thooms 36 seers and a half, kusumas 14 thooms 18 seers, javery 216 candies 7 thooms and  $26\frac{3}{4}$  seers; greens 31 candies, horsegram 94 candies, redgram 13 candies, white javery 9 thooms and 12 seers; blackgrams 98 thooms and 8 seers; Nudas (నూడలు) 2 candies, varigas and other grain making a total of 470 candies 19 thooms and  $36\frac{1}{2}$  seers. This is the yield of the Rajas kamatam. For Vayyur village 479 candies 15 thooms and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a seer excluding inams of the Deva Grahmanas, sarva dumbala inams, estate got 274 candies,  $94\frac{1}{2}$  seers and odd. For every possession of 10 thooms half and half share of the produce 32 thooms, 18 seers, and odd. Greens, blackgrams, redgrams, horsegrams, Madas, white javery, varigas, the sircar khandika is 245 candies and odd. Kusumas 1 candi 3 seers, javery 97 candies, 3 seers; horsegrams and redgrams, 4 candies making a total of 245 candies. The total yield of the minor zamindaris kamatam is 249 candies 5 thooms and 23 seers. At this rate the zamindar's galla.

The income of our zamindar is Rs. 1,408-9-0 for 240 candies, 1 thoom and  $16\frac{3}{4}$  seers—

Kamatam 4 candies 4 thooms,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  seers at Rs. 15 a candi—

	RS.	A.	P.
Kusums per candi Rs. 16 .. .. .	16	13	6
Javery per candi Rs. 20 .. .. .	2,246	3	0
Greens at Rs. 20 .. .. .	572	1	9
Horsegrams at Rs. 15 .. .. .	290	11	6
Redgrams at Rs. 18 .. .. .	87	10	0
Castor-seeds at Rs. 21 .. .. .	36	12	3
Blackgrams at Rs. 26 .. .. .	18	4	9
Oregas at Rs. 17 .. .. .	33	2	3
Cotton at Rs. 21 .. .. .	6	6	3
Bengalgrams at Rs. 20 .. .. .	17	1	9
Coriander at Rs. 16 .. .. .	0	5	6
Cotton at Rs. 22 .. .. .	6	1	0
	4,710	2	6
Kamatamgalla as before total .. .. .	72	12	6
Seri+Kamatam .. .. .	4,882	15	0
Teerva Patha seri .. .. .	667	9	0
	5,450	8	0
Money kattubadi inam .. .. .	300	7	0
Bandes .. .. .	137	1	0
Fruit trees .. .. .	74	0	0
Stone cist (Mohturja) రాళ్ళ సిస్టు .. .. .	48	0	0
	617	6	0
Total demand .. .. .	6,160	10	0
Temples .. .. .	60	0	0
Tekkavi demands .. .. .	264	12	0

1826 (fasli 1236) demand list was filed. The above information was read out from it. Filed dowl of Davulur for 1828—

KATS.	VISAMS.	
55	$13\frac{1}{2}$	
$50\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Useful for cultivation.
$5\frac{1}{2}$	0	Poramboke.



						CANDIES.	THOOMS.	SEERS.
Seri excluding inams	..	..	..	..	..	23	8	44
Sircar ambaram (share)	..	..	..	..	..	10	3	47
From grains	..	..	..	..	..	Rs. 289	9	0
Cists for kuntas	..	..	..	..	..	58	14	3
Total	..	..	..	..	..	342	7	8
Kattubadi inams	..	..	..	..	..	29	4	9
Tax for thumma trees (bulbul trees)	..	..	..	..	..	6	12	0
Stone cist (mutarfa)	..	..	..	..	..	20	15	3
	..	..	..	..	..	399	7	3
Takkavi Recoupement	..	..	..	..	..	40	0	0
	..	..	..	..	..	439	7	3

Filed demand for fasli 1238.

Answering Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu: Money rents were not paid till 1860. It is our practice to decide the total payment of the whole village approximately. They will distribute. The same rates for the joint izara system. Even now the same rates continue. Filed sale deeds of Vuyyur by Alluri Sasirekha.

							RS.	A.	P.
Ninety-nine cents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0
Eighty-four cents	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,259	6	0
1929—Linganeni Ramanna 95 cents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	0	0

Filed lease deeds 3.45 cents—72 bags paddy.

For raising sugarcane, etc. Filed Dowl, prior to Estates Land Act, of Medicherla for faslis 1311 and 1340.

Witness No. 315.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Krishnamoorthy Rao, Agent of the Melmandai estate, Tinnevely district.

Two-thirds of the estate were purchased at a court-auction in 1882, by the zamindar.

								RS.	A.	P.
Total land assessment from the four revenue villages is	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,727	9	11
Tree-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,046	7	6
Classification of soil.							Rates per acre.	Total area.		
							RS.	ACS.		
Black soil	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	218.82		
Red soil	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 1/4	1.76		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	2,591.14		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	237.51		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	173.20		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	43.62		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	246.16		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	195.61		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	513.30		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	219.92		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	249.79		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 1/2	145.20		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	810.93		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	131.35		
Sandy soil	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 1/2	292.71		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 1/4	12.86		
Panja—sandy soil	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	292.21		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8.8		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	356.30		
	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2,492.25		
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..		3,178.84		

Irrigation sources.—There are seven tanks in the estate. Of those two are inam tanks. The rest belong to the estate. They are Sengulam, Poyyankulam, Samakkulam and two more tanks.

							ACS.
Total area of the ayacut under Sengulam tank is	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.81
Do. under Poyyankulam tank is	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.32
Do. under Samakkulam tank is	..	..	..	..	..	..	41.77
Do. under two other tanks are	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.62 and 8.19 respectively



		RS.	A.	P.
Total area of Maimondai village is .. .. .		1,890	12	2
Do. Maragathapuram village is .. .. .		303	15	10
Do. Kumarachakkarapuram village .. .. .		603	1	9
Do. Sivapuram kundram .. .. .		1,495	4	2
Do. Vembar village .. .. .		2,091	4	0
Do. Pachiapuram village .. .. .		967	7	1
Do. Velayudapuram .. .. .		412	10	1
Total area ..		7,764	7	1

*Tree-tax.*—The remaining area of lands is 10,000 acres—which are sandy; of this, on 6,000 acres of lands about 100,000 palmyra trees are growing. No crops are raised thereon. Major portion of the income due to the estate is derived from the tax on palmyra trees. In certain cases, palmyra trees bear a separate tax apart from the land on which they grow. Up to fasli 1317, all the lands in Vembar, Pachayapuram and Sivaparangundram villages have been pannai lands. In fasli 1317–18, there was renewal of pattas and the Estates Land Act was also brought into force. The ryots at that time claimed trees on patta lands as their own. An understanding however was arrived at between the zamindar and the ryots to the effect that trees which were in existence in 1908 should belong to the zamindar and those which were planted subsequently should be felled and removed. A clause on similar lines was also introduced in the patta.

The witness said that there were cases in which trees belonged to one person while the land belonged to another. Enumeration of trees took place every three years and eight trees. The witness further stated that all trees belonged to the zamindar, though the ryots contended that trees that were planted after 1908 belonged to them. To a question by Sri A. Rengaswami Ayyangar, the witness replied that there were cases in which trees belonged to two or three individuals while the land belonged to one person. He also said that only those who had the usufruct of the trees could know the exact number of them and that it was difficult to distinguish between trees which existed before 1908 and those planted subsequently.

*Rates.*—The estate levies a tax of As. 1–3 for every palmyra tree. The witness deposed that it took twenty years before a palmyra tree could be of any use. Tax was levied only at that stage. The witness continuing stated that formerly the ryot had to pay Rs. 1–8–0 for making use of the corpus of the tree. The fee charged at present is from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 for every tree. Trees are also auctioned for a sum ranging from 8 annas to Rs. 1–8–0. The sum fixed by courts reach up to Rs. 10 according to the witness.

*Ownership of trees.*—The witness read extracts from the judgment of Mr. Newsam to show that the zamindar was the owner of the trees. The witness also said that trees which existed before 1908 belonged to the zamindar and that this right was recognized since a long time.

*Income of the estate.*—The witness continuing stated that the estate depended largely on the tax levied on palmyra trees and that there will be a considerable falling off in receipts if there is no tree-tax. The estate would find it difficult to pay the peshkash. The witness also said that the estate would be put to considerable loss if all the trees were to belong to the ryots.

According to the witness there are in the estate about 82,000 trees bearing tax. They were in existence before 1908. The witness further stated that provisions in the Estates Land Act were not helpful and that they only led to litigation between the zamindar and the ryots. He also complained that some ryots refused to pay even land-tax.

*Amendment suggested.*—The witness also deposed that as the soil in the estate is wholly sandy, section 12 of the Estates Land Act should be amended to the effect that all trees should belong to the zamindar whether they existed before 1908 or were planted subsequently. If that is not feasible, the witness wants that the estate should be saved by inserting a special section in the Act. He also deposed that if tree-tax were included in the land-tax, all objections would disappear. “Tree-tax” also, according to him should be included in the definition of rent.

*Customary cesses.*—Customary cesses levied in the estate are “Russum” and “Pillayarvari.” From the first cess, the estate derives Rs. 132 and from the second Rs. 73. These cesses originally came into existence as a result of an agreement between the zamindar and the ryots. These cesses are utilized for religious purposes.



Witness No. 317.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Doraiswami Pillai, Revenue Inspector of the Vettavalam estate, North and South Arcot districts.

The rates of rent, now prevailing have been in existence since the time of permanent settlement. Annual income of the estate is Rs. 23,000. Nanja lands in the estate will be 852 cawnies and 11 cents and punja lands, 5,539 cawnies. Dry rates range from Re. 1 to Rs. 3-8-0. The only big tank is that of Vettavalam.

Lands paying a rate of Rs. 4-3-2 will be only 25 cawnies.

CAWNIES.									
Lands paying a rate of Rs. 5-4-0 will be	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	5 2
Do. Rs. 10-8-0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6 0
Do. Rs. 11-4-0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	0 1
Do. Rs. 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	11 0
Do. Rs. 15-12-0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	6 19

In the other three, wet rates range from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 8-12-0. Garden rates range from Rs. 7 to Rs. 24-8-0 per cawnie.

CAWNIES.									
Lands paying at the rate of Rs. 7 per cawnie will be	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2 1
Do. Rs. 17-8-0 per cawnie will be	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12 0
Do. Rs. 19-4-0 do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1 2
Do. Rs. 21-0-0 do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	9 3
Do. Rs. 24-8-0 do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	7 3

Total extent of land paying the above rates is only 13 cawnies. There has been no variation regarding them since the time of permanent settlement.

## Veerapandi.

CAWNIES.									
Total extent of land is	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	993
Nanja lands form	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	218
Punja lands form	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	775

Class of lands.								Rate.			Extent.		
								RS.	A.	P.	CAWNIES.		
Nanja	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	0	10	13	0
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	0	1	14	3
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8	0	1	2	0
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	0	28	12	0
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	0	5	0	1
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	0	9	111	6	1
Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	0	60	4	2

Dry rates generally range from Re. 1 to Rs. 2-10-0.

CAWNIES.									
Lands paying a rate of Rs. 4 0 0 form	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	10 1
Do. Rs. 2 3 0 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	0 0
Do. Rs. 1 12 0 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	533	15 2
Do. Rs. 1 0 0 „	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3 1

Garden lands in Veerapandi form only cawnies 3-11-2-0.

The tanks of Veerapandi, Vettavalam and Koodaloor are on grounds belonging to the railway. The railway company effects repairs to those tanks and recovers the expenses thereof from the Government. If repairs are of a minor nature the railway company asks us to set them right. Recently two or three tanks breached and we did the necessary repairs.

There is a forest in Vettapalam and another at Anukkumalai.

Mr. B. VENKATACHALAM PILLAI: Q.—What is the rate prevailing in adjacent Government village? A.—I did not ascertain. It may be approximately Rs. 7.

Q.—Do you keep accounts for tank-maramat? A.—Yes. We do.

Witness No. 318.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Chelasani Ramachandrayya, son of Venkataratnam, Angalur, Kistna district.

We have submitted a memorandum at Rajahmundry. As there are no special tribunal courts, the ryots are driven out and such unjust acts are perpetrated. The cists are unjust. It will be good if either the panchayat or the village munsif collects the taxes. Previous dates are put in the receipts that are given to us.



(Filed receipts for May and February of Merur Kotayya of Darsi, Guntur district, dated 14th May 1937.) As the Relief Bill has been passed, they collected Rs. 9-5-8 under the pseudonym of the previous years' dues. (Filed receipts.)

(Filed cowls to show increase made every year.) Notice was given that the ryots should quit. As the ryots of the Nandipadu village, Ongole taluk, did not quit, a notice was served stating that a fine of Rs. 200 would be levied on them. (Filed.) The payment made by the people of Darsi Agraharam this year was credited to the previous year's due.

(Filed cowls of Gangavaram, Nellore district, showing increase from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 and to Rs. 15.) The ryots don't know that the Act was passed. The ryots and Harijans of Billapadu and Proddupaka have been driven out. The ryots of Gampagadapa and Dharmapuram have no secure footing. Thus the ryots are put to much trouble as there is no special tribunal. I request that a stay order may be issued on the suits filed now.

I am the President of the Agraharam Ryots' Association. (Filed minimum demands of agraharam ryots.)

Witness No. 319.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Sangana Bayappa Reddi, Nagireddipalem, Nagasamudram shrotriyam, Kalahasti estate, Nellore district.

Kist, nagiri and pullary, Rs. 2,000.

Cess Rs. 30-1-8.

Three candies are collected as meras (tax) by the karnam. Now the collection is Rs. 300. It increased due to Thosubadi. We are illiterate brutes. We cannot pay. I think there is no need for that. Other requirements are embodied in the memorandum. (Filed demands statement.) Now they have demanded. What will be done for that?

Witness No. 320.

Madras.

29th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Devisetty Achayya, Chittala, Tiruvur taluk.

(1) Mirzapur.

(2) Gampalagudem.

(3) Tiruvur.

We have not submitted anything as yet.

	RS.	A.	P.
Nalla Akkisetty No. 3 patta—1304 .. .. .	8	0	0
Do. 1313 .. .. .	17	3	7
They are collecting like that till now. In Turukupadu, Medur, Rolupadu—			
	RS.		
1304—4 acres 28 cents, wet .. .. .	10		
1304—1313—1 candy 4 thooms, 24 seers .. .. .			
Collections—			
1321—1 candy 6 thooms 8½ seers .. .. .			
The ryots are paying a kist of Rs. 9 per acre, in accordance with the bazaar rates.			
	RS.	A.	P.
Chintalapadu—Government village—			
No. 1 patta, 1304 .. .. .	0	5	6
Nannapuneni Seethamma's .. .. .	4	4	0
	11	6	0
In Butchibabugar's vantu .. .. .	4	3	3
	26	2	3
	3	4	3
	29	7	3
For patta No. 42 since 1313 to 1320 are collected. The maximum taram rate in Meduri Estate is Rs. 49-11-8.	30	6	9

The payment including cesses for the same lands in the fasli 1317 is Rs. 100-2-4. The waste land of Patta No. 36 is a joint one belonging to Nalla Kotamsetti and others.

1304—Rs. 137-8-6.

Mussakkampeta waste land cesses—Rs. 17-3-0.

At present Tunikipati estate is managed by the Raja of Mirzapur.

For the same land in fasli 1312—Patta No. 72.



Fasli 1313 Mavi, Rs. 30-2-4.

Fasli 1314—Rs. 290-6-7

Adding the whole it is Rs. 520-1-9. For fasli 1321, the ryots did not want it but the zamindar did not agree. They exacted a written agreement that there is Swantakamatam of 50 acres of release patta. The collection is Rs. 459-12-1. For the other land Rs. 506-7-1.

The same land became patta No. 70 in 1321. The collection is Rs. 700 for 257 acres and 66 cents. All this happened after the Estates Land Act was passed. A patta also was issued by the estate later on. It is being used as a grazing ground. A part of it is also cultivated. Between faslis 1345 and 1346, the clerk of the Raja of Mirzapuram Came and said that there should not be any waste land. He took from us petitions for giving it at Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 a pair.

The grama gudikattu in fasli 1304 is Rs. 1,146-6-5.

The patta for the beedu is in the names of five people. They have taken it for their own use : not for the use of the whole village. The responsibility of paying the taxes rests with six ryots. It is not meant for all the people. I don't know the circumstances existing previously. Since 1304 the pattadars are using it. The pattadars are—

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Gopisetti Hanumayya.      | (4) Yenam Lakshminarayana. |
| (2) Gopisetti Ramayya.        | (5) Nalla Kotamsetti.      |
| (3) Gopisetti Venkata Ramana. | (6) Pulicherla Tirupati.   |

The swantakamatam of the zamindar is written in the name of the zamindar and the land of the ryots in the name of the ryots. They are increasing the kists. Suits were not filed after the enactment of the Estates Land Act. The ryots are brutes. They did not file suits.

Questioned by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram : I am a ryot of Rolupadu, having two acres of dry land. No wet land. There are richer ryots than me.

Hussekhan beedu, Kandrika beedu.

1/10—75 acres.

1/6—75 acres.

Total of 302-94 cents.

	RS. A. P.		
Maximum on kandrika ... ..	290	6	7
Total ... ..	406	7	0
Cess ... ..	56	12	8
	520	1	9

It was till 1327. Even now the same rate. (Filed an old register.)

*Old Thiruvur Estate.*—Filed amarakam register. That land was cultivated for some time. The patta has been registered. It is a registered cowle. It was not cultivated then. Beedu has been given for cowle. It was used as beedu for five to eight years. Afterwards they wanted it to be given back. If the ryot has no right, how can release patta be written? The beedu of the Musakhanpeta belongs to the ryots. The cattle can be grazed. Cultivation can be had, if necessary. It is not stipulated that it shall be used only for grazing purposes. It can also be cultivated. It might have been written so. Subsequent to that another patta was issued. It is known that patta was given for 1321 to 1325. (Read from patta batwada register, dated 4th July 1911.) This register was given by the karnam of Rolupadu Kavanam. For eight years—beedu. Gesubadu patta 1313 to 1320 for Rs. 520-1-9. It is stated in that that it should not be cultivated.

Read out from the patta :—

They have enacted the rates as they pleased. At least it must not be more than the Government rate. I shall show how the kists are high :—

	RS. A. P.		
1308 ... ..	53	13	9
1311 ... ..	109	3	0
1908 ... ..	291	11	6
1926 ... ..	484	12	4

'They should not increase for the beedu.' So says the Estates Land Act. They have increased for the cultivated lands. Jirayati patta has been given. That is why we are thinking so. The patta of Thiruvur beedu has been issued. For not paying the kists it has not been attached and Rs. 290-2-7 were collected. They have given the receipts and then collected. In 1926 it is Rs. 484-12-6.



Burial-grounds also were occupied; so also tank beds. We have received the papers to-day only. It is stated in the old records. There is nothing now. It is under swanthakamatam.

Filed papers regarding :—

- (1) Occupation of the Erukupadu Rudhrabhoomi.
- (2) Kudapa village pattas.
- (3) Judgment in favour of ryots.
- (4) Statement of charges for cattle grazing in Erukupadu tank.
- (5) Record of Akkapalem.

Witness No. 321.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Marella Sitaramayya, aged 28 years, son of Venkatasubbayya, Uppalapadu, Venkatagiri estate, Darsi taluk.

The witness stated as follows :

Till fasli 1233, the rent was taken in kind as share of produce. Then the system of cash rent came into force. Subsequently, the villages were given on ijara. The karnams became the ijaradars; and they increased the rents. Some land also was given to the ryots. The Raja used to press the ryots to leave the lands. In fasli 1333 the cist was Rs. 550. Now according to the demand of fasli 1344, the cist is Rs. 1,144. The Darsi division has not been surveyed. The survey was done at the expense of the Raja himself. But a new survey has to be made. Since fasli 1233, there has been a tank in our village. It is breached. But the dry rate is not collected; only the wet rate is collected, although the tank has not been repaired. In 1918, we sent petitions to the Raja. He promised to repair the tank. Contractors began to work on the 8th January 1918. On the 4th March 1918, Rs. 739 were given. On a second occasion Rs. 376 were given. There still remained Rs. 195, as also a deposit of Rs. 100. My father was one of the contractors. We have also petitioned for repairs and for collection on dry rate. We petitioned to the Public Works Department, to the District Collector and to the Raja. A supervisor did the levelling work. Since times immemorial there has been no kancha or pullam fees. In 1933, they took Rs. 25 and gave me a receipt only for Rs. 4. They auctioned the land of Annabattula Venkanna. He also has receipts. He has no other piece of land. When the land is there, they come and distrain and sell movable properties. They collect rents even on lands which are not cultivated. They also collect the garden rates. In the village of Muzerella, the cist in fasli 1230 was Rs. 4,420-4-0. In fasli 1233, it was increased by Rs. 2,360-4-9. In Vempadu, the cist in fasli 1230 was Rs. 1,220-4-9; in fasli 1344, it rose to Rs. 2,225-4-4. There are difficulties arising out of the channels, Guntakamma and Errakalva not having been repaired. In the time of Rahintulla the grazing rights were free. There were free grazing rights. I am herewith filing the papers relating to the sale of the kanchas. In the zamindari villages the rents are high. They must be reduced to the level obtaining in the Government areas. Our wells dug at our own expense. They are collecting Rs. 25 as the mulum rate. It must be reduced. The Government should undertake to repair all irrigation and collect from the zamindar the expenses. The accounts must be maintained. Tahsildars or other superior officers must have inspecting powers. We must have free right to get wood and fuel from the forest. The subdivision of all the pattas should be made. Fees in connexion with the transfer and subdivision of pattas are unjust. The right to the trees must vest in the ryots. Since ten years, there is no jamabandi. Our revenue court is seventy miles from my village; and the civil court is seventy miles away. Village officers should not have the power of collection. The power must be vested in a panchayat. The zamindari methods are not good. And they must be abolished.

Witness No. 323.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. Venkatavaradachari, Manager, Panagal estate.

(The following matter is in addition to what he deposed in English.)

Total cultivation : 79 sthalams; yield 136½ putties; 5 tooms and 5 mumtas. From greengram, horsegram and sambha; 4½ horsegram, greengram 7 tooms and 10 pundums; belonging to Kapoos 10 tooms, ordinary ryot 50 putties, Brahmans 40 putties, 90 tooms and 5 mumtas; Kammavaru including Marahs, total 118 putties, 17 tooms; that is, tooms 42 putties above the medipalu. In fasli 1205, the Raja's share was 18 putties,



14 tooms out of a total of 61 putties. In fasli 1263, it was 19 tooms. In fasli 1270 the entire demand was 95 putties, 12 tooms and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  muntas. Deductions on account of the ploughs of the Kapoos 39 putties, and 19 tooms; Brahmans and Kammavaru, 9 putties, 6 tooms and  $16\frac{3}{4}$  muntas, balance 46 putties 19 tooms and 5 muntas.

*Fasli 1245—Cherlopalli.*—Total cultivation 17 putties; ploughshare 3 putties, 15 tooms and 10 muntas. Out of this the Raja's share is 8 putties, 12 tooms and 5 muntas. Twenty tooms are equal to one puttie, or 400 muntas; a munta is equal to two Madras measures.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU: Q.—You have got old documents. You place them; and we ourselves will examine them. A.—Total 3 putties, 2 tooms and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  muntas. The ryots' share 1 puttie, 7 tooms, and 7 muntas. The Raja's share 1 puttie, 15 tooms and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  muntas. There was a share system in 1322. (The witness here files a statement showing how the cash rents prevailed. He files also another statement showing the tanks, and channels, etc.)

Q.—What was the position about grazing? A.—They take permits and graze them.

In reply to another question, he stated that the zamindar himself surveyed the estate, and he regularly subdivides the estate when the intimation comes from the sub-registrar.

Q.—How many have you subdivided? A.—I filed a list of all the subdivisions.

Witness No. 326.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Chimata Veeranjanyulu, son of Ramiah, Manager, Pamur estate, Nellore district.

In the Pamuru estate there are 63 main villages, and 32 aghaharams. The Pamur estate belonged to Kalahasti in olden days. The present zamindar bought it in 1920 and possessed it in December 1924. Permanent settlement was made in Kalahasti in the year 1924. Only then cash payment of tax was fixed. The taxes are being paid till now according to that only. I am filing the jamabandi of cesses, etc., for fasli 1251 of the Pamuru village. Herein is stated the particulars of cash payment and the land owned by every ryot. The rate per 1 gorru of wet land is Rs. 75. It is Rs. 50 for the second taram and Rs. 20 for the fifth taram. One gorru means 3 acres and 12 cents. I am filing the statement of the rates levied at present in the estate. The rates are not increased either before or after the enactment of the Estates Land Act. I am filing the statement of the value of the patta lands. In this estate pattas are changed whenever required by the ryots. Conveniences of collection of taxes, and other necessary expenditure are provided lately. As the zamindar is not having proper control over the village officials, it causes great trouble. The zamindar must possess all the authorities and rights stipulated by the Revenue Recovery Act. There are 28 tanks in the estate. I am filing the statement containing all particulars. It has been acquired in December 1924. At first Rs. 1,930 more were increased. (Filing statement.) The zamindar is incurring all expenditure towards the upkeep and maintenance of the water sources. The zamindar is bearing all the burdens regarding those lands. As there is no union among the ryots the zamindar has to auction the land and purchase it himself. Even that land is retained in their possession by the ryots, though bought by the zamindar. Thus the zamindar is not able to establish his right over them. He is giving them back to the ryots if they pay off the expenses he had incurred on those lands. In this respect we are forced to arrange for removing or driving the ryots out of the lands. According to the rules of the Madras Estates Land Act there are no fences and reserve forests. There are small forests in Penu-gonda and Bhairavakonda. Permits were issued for taking out grass and wood. To some gentlemen it is being given on contract. Grazing fees are being collected for giving permits for grazing the cattle in the bushes and fences of the estate. The fees are 8 annas per big animal, 4 annas per small animal, As. 2-6 per sheep and As. 4-6 per goat. I am filing herewith the statement showing the collection and arrears of the fasli 1345 and 1346. (for the villages of the estate). Administrative accounts and the statement showing their nature, are being filed herewith.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU: Q.—How much is the demand in your estate for the year 1934? A.—Filed statement regarding that.

Q.—Did it increase in 1342 more than what it was in fasli 1334. See. If there is time, answering the following question.

Q.—How much land is auctioned in 1934 for not paying your revenue cists? Did you file accounts as for the extent of the land bought? A.—Yes, I did.



Q.—For what time from 1934 did you file the accounts? You look. What is the cist for gardens in Uppalapadu? What is the tax for dry land? A.—I filed particulars regarding that.

Q.—Ordinarily how much you take for dry land? A.—For dry we take per 1 gorru Rs. 3 or Rs. 2 or Re. 1 as the case may be. For the garden of Uppalapadu Rs. 40 is taken.

Q.—Are there not wells dug by the ryots in the gardens? But still you are levying Rs. 40. Is it not? A.—Yes.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Since what time are the gardens so taxed? A.—Those lands which were dry since long, have been given for contract, since four or five years. That is why cist is taken for dry land gardens. They were collecting an approximately estimated dowl. It is given on contract since fasli 1229 (i.e., 1819 A.D.) as dry land garden tax.

Q.—Is there no definite account showing the dry land, and gardens? A.—No.

Q.—How to know the particulars of the gardens? A.—If we see the contract deeds, we can know.

Q.—It is stated that there is an extent of 49 acres of garden. Since how long is it a garden? A.—Since I know about those lands.

Q.—Which account is your basis to say so? A.—There is an account showing the total dry garden tax. As it is given for contract, there will be no account. There are accounts and deeds for every village. I shall file them if required. We have got them from the time of permanent settlement.

Q.—Are you submitting the accounts of the year 1819? Are the accounts you have given sufficient? A.—There is no difference in rates. There will be no cultivation.

Q.—Are you giving the dry land rates? Or garden rates? A.—Dry rates only.

Q.—For how many lands is the garden rate levied? Is it patta rate? A.—We are giving for contract the lands that are in our possession.

Q.—Was it not under a patta when permanent settlement was made? A.—Some is like that and a part is not so. We included in patta with the consent of the ryots.

Q.—You said that you have accounts for nineteen years. Do you have any account stating the number of acres in each village? A.—The number of acres is not written. It will be written as "dry land garden tax contract." The waste lands contract will be given as the ryots wish.

Q.—Do the ryots ask for the dry rate or garden rate? A.—If they dig a well, they ask for garden rate, if not they ask for dry rate. There is no distinct account showing the extent of dry land and garden.

Q.—Does it mean that the ryots having dug wells themselves, agreed to pay the garden rates? A.—It will be useless and waste if wells are not dug. They themselves fix the garden rate and the zamindar consents to it.

Q.—What is meant by amani dry? A.—Land for which rates are levied according to crops (pairwari cist).

Q.—Since how long does it exist? A.—Since the beginning. It is stated in the accounts I have submitted.

Q.—Is it stated always in the accounts as amani wet? A.—It is written as amani wet for 28 villages.

Q.—Are there details for every village stating that the permanent wet is 12 acres and 32 cents? A.—I shall file them. The amani wet rate is much. The rate per garce in Darsiguntapeta is Rs. 120. In this it is Rs. 140. If the first crop is cultivated, half of it is the cist. If the second crop is not raised the rate is Rs. 20 per gorru. The above-mentioned cist is for two crops.

Q.—What is the extent of wet and dry? A.—All are dry lands. Wet is very little.

By Mr. V. V. JCGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—What is the demand for faslis 1334 and 1342? A.—42,10,000 for fasli 1334. Subsequently we lost some of the villages.

Q.—You told about the cist for garden lands. Four miles off there is a village called Musunuru, a Government village, where there are garden lands. There the rate per one gorru is 12 annas. Is it not? A.—In Government lands it is not levied per gorru. The measurement is for an acre.

Q.—Is it 12 annas per acre? A.—I don't know.

Q.—Did you not sell the lands for not paying the taxes? How much of land did you sell for faslis 1334 and 1342? A.—It is stated for one fasli in the case of some lands.



Q.—You file accounts as for the total amount of land of the ryots sold since fasli 1334 to 1342? A.—I shall have them written in fair and file them. It is already written in rough.

Q.—Are there not grazing grounds for cattle? What are the rates? A.—We give for contract. There are different rates. They take the grounds for contract according to their conveniences. For those that are in our control we take 8 annas per adult cattle and 4 annas per calf. I don't know what they will take.

Q.—(Pointing to a ryot) This ryot says that the rate is Re. 1 in Pamur? A.—He does not belong to Pamur.

Q.—Do you give any remission? A.—We do give for amani wet lands.

Q.—During the last ten years, how many times did you grant remissions? Tell one approximately? A.—We are giving every year, if they report that crops failed owing to want of rain and water. If the rice crop fails, we give complete remission.

Q.—How much did you give last year? A.—The amount given for each village is stated in the accounts.

Q.—How do you grant remission? A.—We exclude a part and demand for the rest of payment.

Q.—Did you file an irrigation statement? You have not written the amount you are spending? A.—There is another statement for that.

Q.—Have you got a separate establishment? A.—We have our own overseer.

Q.—How much do you spend every year? The wet rate in Darsigunta is Rs. 40. Do you grant remission in that? A.—Yes, we do.

Q.—(Pointing to a ryot) Do you know him? It is said that you have promised a remission of Rs. 20 for this ryot, but never did so. Is it true? A.—I gave the remission. It is stated in accounts.

Q.—Are there joint pattas in your estate? Is your village surveyed? A.—Not surveyed.

Q.—Are you separating joint pattas? A.—We are doing so when applied for.

Q.—How many applied for separation of pattas? A.—One hundred and forty.

Q.—How many have you separated? A.—It is stated in the register. I cannot tell now.

Q.—File particulars for that.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—It is stated that there is Uppalapadu tank wet land. How could you get the tank? A.—It is wet irrigated by stream water.

Q.—If rice is cultivated you will levy the wet rate. Is it so? A.—It is the age long practice. We did not impose anything new.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Note this. If chollu are cultivated in the wet lands of your estate which are given for patta, you will cancel to some extent. Why so? In this patta you have levied Rs. 75. Do you reduce the rate if ragi is cultivated? A.—If the lands are flooded completely, we give complete remission. But if they don't cultivate, when there is sufficient water in the tank and if they cultivate whatever crop they please, we collect the tax in full.

By Mr. B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Q.—Suppose they get water for two months. For fear that the tank may not be filled, they may cultivate dry crops. What rate do you charge them? A.—Ragi will be cultivated in December and January. The water will be full by October. Again there will be rain and the tank overflows. The water got in December will be used for wet crops.

Q.—Where is the certainty that you will get water in December? A.—Only after getting water the seeds will be sown.

Q.—If it rains in October, rice will be cultivated; otherwise ragi will be cultivated. What rates do you charge them? Saying it to be kasuri, do you charge wet rate? A.—We give remission when there is no rain. If there is overflow for the last two years, we levy wet rates.

Q.—Are there three crops in your lands? A.—Yes, Sir. One by October 15th, the 2nd by January 15th, and the third only by April 15th.

By Mr. V. V. JOGAYYA PANTULU : Q.—Do you give fence and fuel free of cost to the ryots? A.—We have given it for contract. It is one of the conditions of contract that the ryots must be allowed to take fence and fuel free of cost if it is for their own use. But they must ask for permission before taking them.



Q.—This person, it seems, is fined for taking fence from the place where bullocks graze. Is it true? A.—It is not for that that he is fined. The people are growing a fence for their conveniences; this person has cut that carefully-grown fence. On those people agreeing, we tried his case and collected compound from him. Every village has a fence.

Q.—If you have got a statement of fences for every village, file that? A.—I shall do so.

Q.—You also file the account of the amount you got by selling fence since fasli 1334 to 1342. A.—The account is ready for the two faslis.

Q.—We require the old fasli accounts? A.—This zamindar acquired in 1924. I can file the account for the amount of the fence fees collected since his acquisition. I shall submit a statement.

Witness No. 328.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Ch. Ragavayya, Valetivaripalem, Veeraragavaswami  
Kota estate, Pamur taluk, Nellore district.**

Our estate is situated in the Nellore district. It consists of a village and seven aghahams. My proprietor is Ravi Thirupathi Raidu. In 1915, we purchased the estate; and took its possession in 1924. We are enforcing only these rates that were then existing. The income from our estate is Rs. 8,000. We pay a peshkash of Rs. 3,300. The same rates which are in force, existed in fasli 1297 also. During the period of thirteen years after we came in possession of the estate, we spent Rs. 25,000 on the repair of the tanks. There are four tanks and one kunta. We began the survey of the estate in 1340 fasli and completed it in 1341. In fasli 1342, we prepared a record of rights. There was exchange of pattas and muchilikas in pursuance of it. The income of the forest varied from Rs. 430 to Rs. 600. Now this is reduced to Rs. 315-14-6. The rate now in force is found in the gudukattu account for fasli 1297. The rates shown in the ijara kadapa are the same as are collected now.

In reply to Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness stated the wet rate per acre is Rupees 9-2-9; the dry rate varies from Re. 0-5-3 to Rs. 2-8-0. The average comes to Rs. 1-1-8. This is the rate per acre. There are Government ryotwar lands adjacent to our estate and two other Government inams. The same system of taram prevails. There are two irrigation tanks in our estate. Under the bigger tank there is paddy cultivation; the land is classified as permanent wet land and wet lands are collected even though the tank may not be full. Because it is permanent wet, they collect in that manner. Now there is water in the tank. The tank is fed by rain. We repaired it two years ago. I do not know the tank breached in 1905. Nor can I say whether six years rents were collected then. The estate came into our possession only in 1904. The small tank is known as the Narsingi tank. In 1925, this tank breached. We collected the rent even in the year 1925, the year of the breach. We repaired it in 1927. We repaired again the tank two years later. Paddy is cultivated under the tank. It is also fed by rain. When there is wet cultivation we collect it full. When there are only dry crops, we give them remissions. On the wet lands which are under amani, the assessment is cropwar. The present proprietor did not assign the tank-bed. The extent is about 15 acres out of which  $9\frac{1}{2}$  acres is under cultivation. Our villages have been surveyed at the request of the ryots, at the expense of the zamindar himself. There is no remission in respect of the khayam magani, that is permanent wet. Even when a number of crops are raised, we collect only one rate, that is for the single crop. In the wet land under amani, we charge less, if the paddy is not raised and we give remissions when there is no crop. That is so in spite of the lands being classed as permanent wet. Some time ago these lands were divided into about nine tarams. There are now 31 tarams per gorru. The tirval varies from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 28. Each taram has got its own rate. Where the land is reclaimed, pattas are given only to the extent actually under cultivation. The jarib lands are only rain fed. The rate is Rs. 25 per acre from the olden times. The same rate prevails whether they take water from the river or the tank. We did not enhance the rents, after we took possession of the estate. I think the rate has been in force for the last fifty years. We collect from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 as grazing fees. Hitherto the practice was to give it on leases, from Rs. 400 to Rs. 600. In fasli, we collected only Rs. 315. In some villages, we allow the villagers to get wood from the forest free of cost for domestic purposes. We collect a fee only if the ryot wants to sell and make money out of it.



Witness No. 329.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Vempati Subbayya, son of Ratnamayya of Bachunvaripadu, Mirzapuram estate, Kistna district.**

In our estate the jarib rates are very high. I am a ryot in the village of Batchuvaripadu in the Mirzapuram estate. I have got both wet and dry lands. The wet is 4 acres in extent. I have got also jarib lands. The rate for the wet lands is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6; and for jarib Rs. 9; and for dry it varies from Rs. 1-8-0 to eight annas. For the jarib lands, the original rent was only eight annas. Now it is assessed at Rs. 9. I have not got papers. Our ancestors dug tanks and then it was only eight annas. The same tanks are now under use, but the assessment is raised to Rs. 9 per acre.

To a question put by Mr. V. V. Jogayya Pantulu, the witness stated that the zamindar filed suits to collect rate at Rs. 9. A suit was filed in fasli 1322-1323, and it was decided in favour of the ryots that the enhancements of rates in 1319 was unauthorized. Even after the judgment they are collecting at the same rate. There are no pattas. The lands were surveyed when the estate was in the possession of the Court of Wards. Even then there were no pattas. It will be clear from the amarkam accounts, that the rates are high. I am unable to properly manure even the one acre of land. That I have under the jarib and the rate is high. Our tanks are under repairs. The proprietors of Yelamaru have also got an interest in our estate. This tank was repaired when the estate was under the Court of Wards. Subsequently it was not repaired. It was fed by the surplus water of another tank. If the tank is repaired the water will be enough for irrigation. We petitioned to the zamindar who only promised, but no work was done. The sluices are gone out of repair and the tank cannot retain water. Rupees 155 are required for the repairs of the channels. There are only ten families. In the village of Survepalli, the tank has been out of repair for the last twenty years. The zamindar sells away the grass grown in the tank. The land under the tank was under paddy cultivation, twenty years ago. In the maniums belonging to the barbers and washerman, the rent is paid in kind. The rate of mamul wet is Rs. 5. There are no remissions given in our estate, at any time whether the tanks are in repair or out of repairs. Last year they made repairs to the tank of Basavarapadu. We can cultivate a little. We are not allowed to take firewood from the scrub jungle. In olden times we could send our cattle to the forests for grazing. Now it is prohibited and suits are filed against us. In several the ryots have won. The cause of the mischief is the zamindari officials. Within my memory at no time did the zamindar collect the grazing fees, until recently. Permits are given to cut scrub jungle at five annas and ten annas. I also paid.

Witness No. 333.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

**Oral evidence of Mr. Nagayya, Punganur estate, Chittoor district.**

I am the General Secretary of the Taluk Congress Committee of Pungam. I have brought a memorandum prepared by the Congress Committee on behalf of the ryots. As you say there is not much time, I shall give the salient points. Our estate was not surveyed. There are joint pattas. They collect taxes even from persons other than the one who enjoys. Such injustice is prevailing. The bunjar is not leased to the one who cultivates it, but it is taken away from him and it is leased out to one who is prepared to spend more money. Whether there is yield or not, rents are being collected. There are two big tanks. There are no remissions. The two tanks in the estate are called Rayal cheruvu and chembukuru. There are no repairs for these tanks for the last twenty years. In the Chowkapalli village, even if the lands are irrigated by wells dug at the expense of the ryots, first-class rates are being collected. In our villages, sugarcane is cultivated in abundance. The ryots have got to exert themselves all throughout the eleven months. Three tirvais are collected for one crop. The forests are not surveyed. There is no distinction like the reserved or the unreserved forests. Last from twenty years they have been collecting grazing fees for the sheep at the rate of two annas per sheep. But now the rate is enhanced to four annas. We were not paying grazing fees. In the recent times, much difficulty is experienced by the ryots in this estate. That is to the election. For Raghunatha Reddi, a rich man, the Raja worked in the recent elections, threatening the ryots to vote for him. But the ryots voted for the Congress only. For the simple reason that the ryots refused to vote



for the said Raghunatha Reddi, the Raja has been causing much inconvenience to the ryots. They were concocting cases against the ryots and troubling them through their officers. They want to harass the ryots in ever so many ways. The ryots are put to much difficulty with regard to the grazing of their cattle. According to the Estates Land Act, they are entitled to collect fees in the case of the reserved forests only. On the other hand they are collecting fees even with regard to the unreserved forests too. They have no right to do so. They are collecting forest fees according to their pleasure. They are charging differently for the different villages. Even the grazing grounds have been encroached upon by them. He filed his memorandum.

In reply to the question put by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, he said that the income is two lakhs. The peshkash paid is ninety thousand. The zamindar claims the forests as his own.

Witness No. 334.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya, Aravalipadu, Venkatagiri estate, Kocherlakota taluk.

I shall speak about the dasabandham inams. They are inams granted for the purpose of constructing tanks. It is now interpreted as for the repairs of the tanks. There are four tanks. Twenty-five years ago, the estate appropriated them. He has assigned another tank under patta. It breached in 1924. We put in petition before the Collector. Till now, no repairs have been undertaken. On the other hand, the estate is ready to assign it away, as it has done in respect of twenty or twenty-five other tanks. In Podili, the dasabandham inams are enjoyed by the zamindars, who also undertake the repairs of the tanks. The Act should be amended so as to say that the dasabandham inamdars may collect rents and they should repair the tanks too. The witness stated that he did not go to the court in this connexion, but that a petition before the Collector was pending.

Witness No. 335.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. V. Appanacharlu, Patakanuru, Venkatagiri estate.

I have not given a memorandum. The tanks are all out of repair. In Tallooru, the Raja appropriated a tank in 1904. There is a document to prove this. The tank in the village of Vemula breached fifty years ago. The Raja sold it away for Rs. 250 and assigned it on a taram rate of Rs. 16. In Modipilli, the tank was sold to Rs. 340 and a taram was fixed upon it. In Malakapuram, a channel went out of repair fifty years ago, and it has not been repaired since. However wet rate only is collected. There was a suit which was decreed in favour of the ryots. Only the parties of that suit were given the benefit of the decree.

Now I shall speak about the illegalities arising out of survey. There was beedu assessed at Rs. 4-8-0 before the survey; but after the survey, the assessment was Rs. 21-12-0 and now it is Rs. 29-12-0 on account of the reclassification. The excess found under survey was classified as wet and was given under pattas. A ryot in Thuragapalem filed a suit and won it. The rate is Rs. 14-9-0 for the wet, for the saline lands it is Rs. 5-11-1. In A.S. No. 915 of 1900, the High Court gave a judgment that only dry rates should be assessed under the new tanks. It was in respect of the Devarapalem village and Kotikalapudi. Three years ago Bellamkondapalem was assessed at a dry rate. They used to drag the ryots into the courts. For the two tanks dug at the expense of the ryots only the wet rates should be collected. The judgment of the munsif's court says that wet rates shall not be collected. The ryots unable to bear the further expenses of litigation, compromise. In fasli 1269, the rate was Rs. 6 per gorru in Gangavaram village. Now it is Rs. 24. Wet garden rates should be abolished. There are cropwar rent also. In some villages, they are collecting rents even on rent free lands.



Witness No. 336.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Panchagnula Venkateswara Sarma, Venkatagiri estate.

Fees were levied on ploughs and kanchas. The mulum cist for the first year is Rs. 1-4-0 and for the second year, Rs. 1-2-0. There is no compulsory rate for the mulum cist. (The witness filed ijara.) They said they were in kanchas; they are collecting Rs. 150. Kanchas were mentioned about in the beginning. There is a method favourable to the ryots. (The witness filed the above papers.) In the villages of Gogulapalli and Mukudupalli, the rate is Rs. 80 for gorru. In fasli 1281, the total demand was Rs. 1,600 for Munagapadu and now it is Rs. 63,000. (He filed the old ijara cowle and the receipts.) Gorru is equal to 1.12 acres. We filed a petition to the repairs of the tanks. The Revenue Board summarily dismissed the petition. Rates were gradually enhanced. The yield is equal to the cultivation expenses. That is about Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. We want that only the dry rates should be collected. There are now about 22 or 25 tanks. Out of them only about twenty are in repair. There is no ayacut fixed. When there is no water, a lower rate should be collected. Now under the survey they fixed different kinds of rates. The term havaram means undefined land. We are also paying water-rates. The instalments of payment are before the harvest time. We want four instalments. In 1934 we petitioned to the Raja to subdivide the joint pattas. Even now it has not been done. There are three kinds of grazing fees in Podili. The area is about 721 acres. The income from the grazing fees is Rs. 200. In the village of Madhavarayapalem there are no cremation fields.

Witness No. 337.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Kukkadapu Ramayya, Munagala estate.

I have got seven acres of dry land and I pay a cist of Rs. 7. I filed a suit for the possession of my land. But I have obstructed. The suit is pending. I was also arrested and put in jail for three days. I had neither food nor water. I was asked to get out of my house. The property is in the hands of a receiver.

Witness No. 338.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. C. S. Natesa Pillai, son of Saravanam Pillai, aged 27 years, of Chinnakavanam village, Ponneri taluk, Chingleput district.

The witness deposed that he was a pattadar in the village and a committee member of the local ryots' association. He also stated that the grievances of the ryots would be found in the petition submitted by him.

Witness No. 339.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. Obula Reddi, Chingleput district.

There was the waram system prevalent in this village up to fasli 1324. In fasli 1325, pattas of cropwar system were offered, and land suits were filed. The Collector decreed in favour of the waram system. And  $9\frac{1}{2}$  tooms, was fixed as the share. We filed a suit for giving us the pattas on cash rents. But we compromised, because we could not continue the suits. The taramwar rates are Rs. 11, Rs. 10-8-0 and Rs. 6 for the three tarams. Marahs of Rs. 2-12-0 on dry land and As. 1-4 for wet land are being collected. The ryots got no pattas. They collected Rs. 220 from No. 150 pattadar. The new zamindar has got 30 acres. The old zamindar has 50 acres. Only 80 acres are under the cultivation of the ryots. Rents are excessive. We do not even get labour. We have to pay the rents even if the crops failed. We are unable to raise wet crops for want of water for six months in the year.



Witness No. 341.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. K. Desikachari, aged 40 years, son of Rangaswami Ayyangar, of Natteri shrotriyam, North Arcot district.

*Early history.*—This shrotriyam was originally conferred by the Nawab of Carnatic as a hereditary grant for the benefit of the Brahmin community. At the time of the inam settlement however, the shrotriyam was registered in the names of Ramachandrachariar, Venkataramanachariar, Narasinga Rao, Srinivasa Rao and others.

*Joint patta.*—According to the witness, the shrotriyam, during the course of many years has been divided up into fragments by partition or sale. There is however only one joint patta. The witness mentioned the hardship and inconvenience resulting from joint patta. The witness wanted that lands should be registered separately on receipt of a petition from the ryots to that effect, the Collector informed them that under section 58 of the Estates Land Act all the "landholders" should send a joint petition.

This is not possible as most of them are absentee landlords, staying in different districts as Government servants. The witness therefore suggested that the lands in the village should be registered separately and separate patta should be given to each pattadar.

*Irrigation sources.*—There are two tanks in the village. Two-thirds of the tanks belong to the Government; and the rest to the shrotriyamdar. Embankments to the tanks were built recently.

Witness No. 342.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. A. Gopala Reddi, Nadamalluru, Tirupati Devasthanam estate, Tiruttani taluk.

The cultivation expenses per acre are Rs. 30-8-0. An acre yields ten bags. Its price is about Rs. 35. We realize Rs. 6 by grass. Total gross yield is Rs. 41. We have to pay a rent of Rs. 19. Cropwar system must be abolished and settlement must be based on taramwar as in the case of Government areas. The yield at present is not enough for the cultivation expenses even. In addition to the rent we pay russooms like the sadarivar, devata russoom and service russoom. In this village tanks are never filled. The channel must be taken from the river Kusasthali. The instalments should be as in the Government areas. The collections must be made by the village panchayats. In Vellooru area, the rate for wet is Rs. 6-8-0. In the village of Naramangalam, the rate for dry is between annas eight and Rs. 2. In Chingleput, it is from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 6 for the wet lands.

Witness No. 345.

Madras.

30th April 1938.

Oral evidence of Mr. B. Lakshmana Rao, Utukuru estate, Gampalagudem.

In addition to the memorandum he filed, the witness deposed as follows.

For the same service inams the Government as well as the zamindar are collecting the rents. For pre-settlement inams pattas were issued in 1908. For twelve years after the Government are collecting the rents. For three years, the zamindar collected and gave a commission of 10 per cent. Next, in 1921, the zamindar brought a suit on all these lands. The District Munsif of Bezwada decreed against the enfranchisement. The District Munsif opined that in Utukuru village, all had jirayati right. The Gampalagudem Estate authorities did not appeal. It was not considered the own kamatam. They thought that the inamdar had occupancy right. The zamindar can collect rents. They filed summary suits and had decrees. In the High Court, the Government won. I will file the records afterwards.



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