

Dewasthan Allowances.

No. 1892.

Revenue Department.

Bombay Castle, 10th April 1874.

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, S.D., No. 1170, dated 28th March 1874 - intimating that the new plan of paying the Dewasthan allowances amounting to Rs 5 and under, through Patels, proposed by Mr. Pestonji Jehangir, and sanctioned in paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 2762, dated the 10th July 1870, has been found to be inconvenient and calculated to increase, rather than decrease, clerical work as shewn in a memorandum which he submits; and requesting that Government will be pleased to sanction one of the two proposals detailed below :-

1st.- If Government do not want to resume any of the village petty Dewasthans, on the ground that the holders have not received payment within six years, but prefer to leave it to the Patel to expend the amount himself towards the Dewasthan, if the holder be not present, he (the Patel remaining personally responsible to the holders for such expenditure, or for non-payment in time, &c., then there is no difficulty whatsoever; the Patel need not shew the amount in the village books, nor keep any account further than is necessary for him to save himself from any civil action. Government need not trouble themselves any further after the sum is once paid from Taluka Treasury to the Patels.

2nd.- If Government wish to retain their claim to resume the allowances in case payment is not demanded by the holders within six years, then the arrangement that existed previous to the recommendation of Mr. Pestonji's is the best, viz to shew all the Dewasthan allowances in Mamlatdar's accounts in Form No. 22, and to strike them off in case of non-payment within six years. In this case, the lump payment entry suggested by Mr. Pestonji will increase work, and create confusion. For instance.- In the Mamlatdar's Petha Khate Wahi, the lump payment entry will shew payment of a Dewasthan allowance; and still the Patel's books will shew that the money has not been paid. The Mamlatdar in that case will have to keep another account to shew which of the allowances shewn as paid through Patel in his Form No. 22, have not actually been paid for six years. This will, of course, increase work more than before, and not purge the Taluka accounts (as Mr. Pestonji states) of a number of miscellaneous entries, but keep the state of things in a Taluka as it was before; and will also add a lump sum payment entry in Taluka, and entries of all the minor items over again in village accounts.

Resolution.- Government are pleased to sanction the adoption of the first of these two proposals.

F. S. Chapman,

Chief Secretary to Government.