



KALADY ROAD DISPUTE WITH TRAVENCORE AND COCHIN; AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Land and water also led to various minor disputes. Travancore and Cochin had experienced certain Minor Disputes along with Major disputes. The disputes were related to the boundaries of both Travancore and Cochin. These disputes were mainly concerned with border, encroachments of rivers, road canals, and cultivated land, changing of border stones, and alteration of survey maps and illegal collection of taxes from boundary places. Though certain problems were amicably solved to some extent through discussion, consultation, agreements and arbitrations, some problems were continued for a long period.

Key words

Encroachments, Boundary, arbitrations, tramway, *Desam*, *Proverthy*.

Materials and Methods

The primary sources were used for the writing of article. The descriptive and narrative style is used for the framing of the article

Introduction

All the minor disputes between these two States were also related to encroachments and the right of establishing their power. These disputes had existed only for a Decade. The minor disputes were emerged after the settlement of J.C.Hannington Commission. Both Travancore and Cochin had taken special interest in settling these minor disputes cordially without changing them into major issues. All these problems were settled with sustaining their rights and authorities.

Kalady road dispute with Cochin

Travancore wanted to connect northward and southward with roads. From Trissur to Travancore territory a road is essential for communication and transportation. The newly recommended road was to connect from Trissur to north ward Travancore¹. The road southward from Trissur and the new road in north Travancore remain would progress through the isolated territory of Cochin territory on the bank of the Periyar River².

Recommendations

The engineer recommended the benefits of Kalady road construction as follows:

- The Cochin territory should make the benefits of the Travancore road construction and connect isolated tracts.
- The road construction is being done by the Travancore engineers under Travancore Sirkar.
- The construction helped future developments of both the states.

¹ B.No.234, *Road at kalady 1873-1880*, State archives ,Thiruvananthapuram, kerala, p.3

² No.5283 Chief Enginer of Travancore dated 2nd December 1876 to the *Dewan* of Travancore, p.1

- The information and orders of the country can be passed easily through the extreme end.
- The tramway south was no way connected with the projects under consideration³.

The Superintendent of Travancore accept the benefits Engineers recommendation, and refer that the Tahsildar of Alangad informed that the line of road out at Kalady and said to be the Cochin territory was not so, the arrangements were therefore made and the work started at that place, the information pass through him was delayed by his subordinate⁴. Moreover one of the Cochin official with in weapons draw away collies from the work and done damage to the same and they had also threatened to the men of work was processed⁵. He requested to avoid such illegal and unauthorized activities⁶.

The supervisor in charge of the northern road request that immediate steps to taken in the matter to enable work to be proceeded with and further molestation of the working parties prevented⁷.

The Chief Engineer of Travancore demanded the immediate attention of the *Dewan* of Travancore on the issue of the obstruction created by the Cochin officials to Travancore work on the portion of the northern road which they allege lies within the cochin territory and the damage they have effected to the road in carrying out their objection⁸. He also noticed that the problem is to refer Alangad Tahsildar.

The construction Kalady road was demanded serious attention from the part of Resident. He wanted to settle the dispute in an amicable and liberal manner⁹He raises the question to the *Dewan* of Cochin that Kalady was located in the Cochin territory or Travancore territory and settle the problem harmoniously. The Resident demanded Cochin Government to have placed in to claim on record leaving the disputed boundary to be adjusted here after which to place obstacle in the way of construction of the line of road which must lengthen the travelers in the locality¹⁰. The construction of road was no longer opposition can be raised from the part of Cochin, so he urged Cochin government to take a fairness decision on constructing roads.

Arguments made by Cochin Government:

- The Kalady *Desam*¹¹ is entirely on Travancore side.
- Kalady *Desam* in the Vellarapilly *Proverthy*¹² belonged to the Cochin Government till 1816, and Travancore Government forcibly for fixation

³ Letter no.659,Political Department dated 23rd May 1877 to the Resident of Travancore p.1

⁴ Letter No.399 The Superintendent Office Note dated to the Chief Engineer Travancore Government.p.5

⁵ Ibid.p.6

⁶ Ibid. p.9

⁷ Letter No. Chiefengineer of Travancore dated 16th January 1877 to the *Dewan* of Travancore , p.6

⁸ Letter No. 2477 ,Chief Engineer Travancore dated 6th July 1877 to the *Dewan* of Travancore, p.12

⁹ Letter No. 658 Resident dated 20th September 1877 to the *Dewan* of Cochin p.21

¹⁰ Ibid.21

¹¹ *Desam* is a political sub division of Grama or Village

¹² *Proverthy* is a village or Grama

of 755 *paras*¹³ and 3/16 *Edangalies*¹⁴ of paddy land and 138 piece of garden land belonged to Kalady *Desam* and annexed them to the Manjapara *Proverthy*.

- In 1824 a conference was conducted discussed the cancellation of above mentioned things. But the *Dewan* relinquished from the claims of land.
- The Cochin Government never give up to claim the remaining portions of the Kalady *Desam* and such portion have always been under its Government
- The disputed portions are consist *Jenmam lands*¹⁵
- The tax on the portion is uninterruptedly collected by the Cochin Government from the very remote period
- A small portion of Chengal *Desam* and the portion of Kalady *Desam* on which Travancore Government had no claim.
- The new road had been traced; the Travancore Government had no right to make a road through such land.
- Cochin's earlier attempt to construct a road through Edapally *jenmon* land was not accepted by the Travancore Government.
- The proposed road was no doubt a desirable one hand, was the Travancore Government consist conveniently take clear of Cochin territory should have no objection to undertake at the expense the construction of such portions of the road as Travancore Cochin lands.
- The matter was reported to the Tahsildar and he also gives instruction of the *proverthy* officials to simply protest against the road being carried through Cochin territory.

Conclusion

Even though such arguments were there on the matter, both the parties agreed to settle the matter amicably. It was another instance that of preceding the age old diplomatic relations even in minor cases. The Minor disputes were mostly led to the conflicts and wars between the countries. But as far as Travancore and Cochin are concerned, they were settled with mutual discussions and agreements. The encroachments of the individual or *Desams* did not tolerate both the States of Travancore and Cochin these encroachments sometimes hinder the smooth transportation and trade. At that time there came a need to evict those encroachments by the authorities of both the States. These endeavors of Travancore and Cochin helped them to keep their separate State entity.

¹³ Para is an instrument used for general measurement in Travancore and Cochin

¹⁴ Edangalies is an instrument used to measure grains

¹⁵ Lands of private Individuls.