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ANCIENT CEYLON AND TAMILS

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(Paper read at the 28th International Congress of Orientalists at New Delhi on 8th January, 1964.)

Ceylon, of all countries in the world, has been known by the most number of names. The most noteworthy are: Ratna Dipa, Lanka Dipa, Lanka, Elamandalam, Sri Lanka, Eelam, Salapa-Deepa, Sinhala, Ceylon, Seliquvo, Seeyali Dipa, Seelatheevu, Selon, Selan divu, Serendip, Tampapanai, Tabrapane, Palasi Mundu and Mummudi Chola Mandala.

Not only poets but also traders from both the western countries and the eastern lands and even travellers have used these names. However, it is said that the most ancient of these names is "Lanka". This name is found in Valmiki's Ramayana and in Ancient Tamil Works. It is this name that is in common usage up to date among the Sinhalese and Tamils of Ceylon. The Mahavamsa states that when in the fifth century B. C. Vijaya conquered the Yakkas, the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, their capital was known as Lankapura.¹

Valmiki's Ramayana describes at length Ceylon and its mighty ruler Ravana and his defeat by Rama. Many do not consider the story of Rama as authentic.² Some believe that the fight between Rama and Ravana was in fact between the Aryans and the Dravidians. Whatever may be the truth of the story of Rama, there is no denying that the lands, cities, rivers, seas and the like described in the Ramayana really existed. Therefore the statements about Ceylon in the Ramayana cannot be lightly dismissed. Though the size of Ceylon

mentioned in the Ramayana may now appear too big to believe, yet it has to be accepted that Ceylon was south of India and was separated from it by a strait at the time of Ramayana. Not only Ramayana but also the Mahabharata, the Puranas and the ancient Tamil works furnish ample evidence of this. These works and the folklore in traditional use in both India and Ceylon³ prove beyond doubt that Ceylon of today is part of the Lanka of Ramayana.

The Sethu Annai over the Palk Strait now called as Adam's Bridge also is known as Ramar Annai since time immemorial. This Bridge is an important and outstanding monument of the connection of Ceylon with India in the ancient times.

The armies of Rama, according to Ramayana, entered Ceylon over this bridge from Dhanuskody in South India. Clear evidence that Rama reached Ceylon via Dhanuskody is found in one of the stanzas of Abananooru,⁴ a Sangam Classic approximately two thousand years old. The stanza states that under a baayan tree at Dhanuskody Rama mapped out his campaign against Ceylon and that before doing so he stopped the chattering of the birds roosting in the tree. It is clear from the stanza that the Tamil poets of the past, nearly two thousand years ago, were aware of these incidents.

Moreover the Sivan Temple at Rameshwaram in South India and the Sivan Temple at Munneswaram in Ceylon are lauded as the holy shrines where Rama worshipped. There are references in the Thevarams that Rama es-

tablished the temple at Rameshwaram. The Sivan Temple at Trincomalee in Ceylon is also associated with Ravana. Besides these in both regions of Ceylon inhabited by the Sinhalese and by the Tamils, there are tales and place names connecting the story of Rama with Ceylon. The Sinhalese still worship Vipishana, Ravana's younger brother.

In the ancient Tamil works Ceylon is known as 'Eelam' as well as 'Ilankai'. The Tamils of those days were well aware that Ceylon was a very ancient land. The ancient Tamil poets invariably referred to Ceylon as the "old land." Ancient works like Sirupanattupadai, Silapathikaram and Asiriyamalai refer to Ceylon as "Thonmavilanka", "Tholilankai" and "Perumthilankai" respectively. It is clear from Sirupanattupadai that there was in South India a place called Ilankai. Purananooru too refers to this Ilankai in two stanzas.⁵

These references clearly establish the facts that the Ancient Tamils in South India knew the existence of Ceylon and that there was enough connection between Ceylon & South India so as to enable the South Indian Tamils to name a part of their country as Ilankai in commemoration of the Old Lanka. Hence there should have been direct communication, trade and even interchange of people, between the Tamilakam and Ceylon.

The inhabitants of the Mavilankai or Ilankai referred to in Sirupanattupadai were called Oviyar who were considered as a section of the Nagas who lived in the coastal areas of Ceylon at that time. It is not impossible that Nagas from Ceylon migrated to South India and named their settlements

⁵ Purananooru—176 and 379

(Continued on page 2)

Dravidian Linguistics At Annamalai University

S. Thananjayarajasingham, M. Litt.

(Continued from last issue)

More than ten Research scholars are at present investigating such interesting and new fields of study as the Madurai Dialect of Tamil, Jaffna Dialect of Tamil, Dialect of Narikkuravar of Neyveli District, loan words other than Sanskrit in Tamil, Nouns in Tamil, Grammatical Theories in Nannool, Language of Nartinaï and the Language of Muthollayiram. Most of them have registered for Ph D and are recipients of University stipends or scholarships from either the Government of India or the University Grants Commission. Teachers from other Universities like the Osmania University are also Research scholars of the Annamalai University in preference to any other University. Apart from these full time Research scholars there are many teachers of the University who in addition to their teaching work have registered for research degrees under the guidance of Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaran. The Linguistic Circle comprising Research Scholars meet on Saturdays when research papers are read and seminars are conducted. Scholars of international eminence also address the circle. Each Research Scholar in turn acts as host to other members of the circle.

The Department of Linguistics has opened courses in Linguistics to post graduate students, Research Scholars and teachers of the University. Linguistics is one of the optional subjects for the degree courses. Post Graduate Certificate courses of one year duration in Linguistics, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu are conducted. Anyone who wishes to further his knowledge could follow the Diploma course which is for another twelve months. The qualifications for admission to the

Diploma course are that an applicant should, not only pass the certificate course at least second class but also pass the M. A or M. O. L. or B. A. (Hons.) Examinations or be studying for any of them at the University. Certificate and Diploma courses are part time courses, each extending over a period of one academic year. There should be a minimum of four hours of instruction per week in accordance with the syllabuses and text books prescribed by the Department. Perhaps the most attractive course of all the courses at the Annamalai University is the M. A. in Linguistics. This is a full time post graduate course of two year duration. The examination includes a small thesis of original work or critical evaluation of another's work on some aspects of a particular language in the second year. A Viva-Voce Examination is also held.

The Department of Linguistics in addition to the nature and type of work described above experiments in language teaching methods. Some lessons in colloquial Tamil have been diligently prepared by the Reader in Linguistics and the Bangalore Missionaries who came to study Tamil at the University benefited enormously by them. In 1962, three young Americans came to the University to undergo intensified training in spoken Tamil, through the auspices of the linguistics Department. The departmental staff is engaged in the laborious task of indexing indigenous words in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam with a view to laying down the laws of correspondence in phonemes and morphemes in the Dravidian cognate languages. After this spade

(Continued on page 2)

¹ Mahavamsa 7 9.

² University of Ceylon—History of Ceylon, Vol. I—p. 95.

³ The Story of Ceylon—E. F. C. Ludowyk, p. 35.

⁴ The Ceylon National Review—July, 1906. Pre-Historic Ceylon—A. M. Gunasekara.

⁵ Abananooru—18.



தமிழ்நாட்டின் தாயகம்... மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தரும்... மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தரும்... மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தரும்...

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1964

Treasure These Thoughts

Cultivate a distaste for the objects of enjoyment. —SWAMI SIVANANDA

TEST OF DEMOCRACY

In his message to the Indian nation on the Republic Day, President Dr. Radhakrishnan, interpreting the true indication of democracy said "Democracy does not believe in the infallibility of any individual or group. It does not think that any particular party represents unblemished good nor does it assume that those who think they are right are really right. Democracy is as much a discipline as it is a privilege; disorder is its antithesis and it behoves us all who wish to see our democracy strengthened to ensure that the manner of its functioning does not become a travesty of what it ought to be".

Examining the progress of his country the President warned his people that "the recent unrest in some parts of the country was traceable to a feeling held that the functioning of our democratic and administrative processes was not as clean as it should be" and called upon his countrymen to re-dedicate themselves to the ideals that had sustained the country in the past and to the completion of the unfinished task of building a higher future for the people.

DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS AT

(Continued from page 1)

work it intends to compile a Dictionary of Comparative Dravidian Languages, Descriptive grammars for various early works in Tamil have been done by Research Scholars and it is now for the department to collate all the evidence and arrive at certain conclusions regarding the history of the Tamil language. The dictionaries of morphs and words which form the appendix of theses on languages are very useful to the department which is thinking of compiling a Tamil Dictionary on historical principles. Homage to pioneers in Dravidian Linguistics has been paid by the Department of Linguistics. The portraits of dravidologists like Dr. Caldwell, Rev. Fr. Gnanaprasagar and Prof. Emeneau adorn the entrance to the Linguistics Department.

The recent decision on the part of the University Grants Commission to recognise the Linguistic Department of the Annamalai University along with that of Poona as an advanced centre for Linguistic Studies is something which we all should welcome with great rejoicing. India with its multifarious languages is faced with the great problem of language study, a problem complicated by the linguistic states. If a second linguistic survey of India was to be thought of by the government of India, it cannot overlook the role of the Linguistic Department of the Annamalai University which will be an excellent centre for language surveys in the southernmost part of India.

What cannot we expect from the Linguistic Department of the Annamalai University whose

people what their shortcomings were.

The leaders of Lanka who often declare that they look up to Bharat for guidance would do well to emulate the example of the Indian statesmen and understand that all is not well with the working of democracy in this country. It is only such a realisation of the defects in the working of democracy that can enable the leaders think of remedial measures.

professor of Linguistics is by himself a mobile department of descriptive linguistics. New honours come upon him. But like old garments they cling to their mould. He inaugurated Tamil Studies at Chicago University in April, 1962. The Department of Indian studies of the University of Malaya looks up to him for anything in Dravidian studies. The summer and winter Schools of Linguistics conducted under the auspices of the Linguistics Society of India and Deccan College demand his active participation both as teacher and student. The Pro-Chancellor Dr. Rajah Sir M. A. Muthia Chettiar said as follows at the opening of the Linguistic Block of the Annamalai University. This University from the beginning was interested specially in developing Linguistic studies. Great savants in Tamil and Sanskrit, like Swaminatha Iyer, Dandapaniswamy Desikshitar, Pandithamani Kathiresan Chettyar had served the University from this point of view. The Linguistics Department with its bias for language studies was but a fruition of that old ideal of this University. I have been welcoming scholars to accept our honorary professorship and I am glad to announce that I extend this invitation to scholars of other Indian languages, irrespective of their age and without any compulsory provision for teaching or other work. Their presence will be a source of inspiration and this University will only be too glad to meet all their expenditure." The Annamalai University is singularly fortunate to have person with such clear and broad vision as Dr. Rajah Sir M. A. Muthia Chettiar as its Pro-Chancellor.

CHANGE OF NAME

"I, KOILAM PILLAI ANANDAVEL, presently of Paruthi-Addaippu, Kayts, do hereby inform the Government of Ceylon and the General Public that I shall henceforth be known and called as KOILAM PILLAI SOTHIVEL ANANTHAVEL and sign all Documents as K. S. Ananthavel"

K. S. Ananthavel. (M. 273, 34.)

PROCTOR V. SIVASUBRAMANIAM PASSES AWAY

We regret to record the untimely death of Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam, Proctor S. C. Notary Public. He was suddenly taken ill on Tuesday night (28-1-1964) and despite medical attention passed away on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Sivasubramaniam had a very large practice in the Jaffna District Court where he had been practicing his profession since 1942. He was genial and affable and always unruffled.

True to the traditions of the family to which he belonged, the late Sri Muttutambipillai, author of the English - Tamil Dictionary and many other Tamil works being his grand-uncle, Mr. Sivasubramaniam was a devout Saivite and made annual pilgrimages to the Holy Shrines in South India. He was a son of the late Mr. K. Vythilingam of Navalar Kotam and a brother of Mr. V. Muttukumaraswamy B. A. He was educated at the Jaffna Hindu College.

The funeral took place on Thursday at 4 p. m. There was a large attendance of friends and relatives.

He leaves behind his wife and two sons, four brother and three sisters.

A reference to his death was made at the District Court when Mr. N Sivagnanasundaram, District Judge and Mr. G. C. Niles, Additional District Judge, came on the Bench on Thursday. Mr. T. Muttusamy Pillai referred to the success of Mr Sivasubramaniam as a lawyer. The District Judge endorsed the reference.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1372.

In the matter of the intestate estate and Effects of the late Veluppillai Selvadurai of Urumpiray

Deceased Sinneramah widow of Selvadurai of Urumpiray

Vs. Petitioner.

- 1 Sellathurai Kamalanathan
2 Kamalarani daughter of Selvadurai
3 Kamalathevi daughter of Selvadurai
4 Kamaleswary daughter of Selvadurai
5 Selvadurai Kamalawaran
6 Selvadurai Kamalarajah and
7 Sinniah Arumugam all of Urumpiray

This matter coming on for disposal before N. Sivagnanasundaram Esquire, District Judge Jaffna, on this 28th day of September 1963 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the

Ancient Ceylon And Tamils

(Continued from Page 1)

after their mother country. There is ample evidence including inscriptional to the fact that in the ancient times people from Ceylon and South India settled in each other's country.

The sanskrit word denoting Ceylon is Lanka. It is possible that this word Lanka would have derived from the Tamil word Ilankai. The verbal root of the Tamil word Ilankai is 'Ilanku' - means shining. The sanskrit word Lanka also has this meaning. The other classical Tamil word which denotes Ilankai is Eelam. This word also means Gold Ilankai should have glittered as gold to get this name Eelam. It is also possible that Ilankai would have derived from Eelam as there is similarity in sound and meaning in these two words. The Hindus called Ceylon Seeyalideepa and Seeladivu. These words would have probably derived from Eelam. Westerners formed the words of Selkivo, Selon and Ceylon from the two Hindu names.

The word 'Eelam' is also found in the ancient Tamil works and also in a South Indian cave inscription of the 3rd century B.C. From this time up to date Eelam has also been used by the Tamils to denote Ceylon. In the inscriptions of Chola and Pandiya Kings this word Eelam is equally used with Lanka.

(To be continued)

28th day of September 1963 having been read;

It is ordered that the 7th respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby appointed as the Guardian-ad-litem over the minors the 3rd to 5th Respondents abovenamed.

It is further ordered that the petitioner abovenamed be and she is hereby declared entitled as the lawful widow of the said deceased, to have letters of administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to her accordingly, unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons shall on or before the 6th day of December 1963 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 28th day of September 1963

Sgd. N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge

6-12-1963. Time to show cause extended to 14-2-64.

Sgd. N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge

O 201, 24 & 31

The Jaffna Hindu College O.B.A.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORT

The Temple

The Vairava Temple which for some time was in a state of neglect was renovated during this period. The College met the building expenses and the O. B. A. helped in the supervision of the building work. We are happy to report that work is completed and the Kumbabishkem was held on 30-10-63. We must express our deep gratitude to Mr. M Mylvaganam for his guidance in having the work done strictly according to the Agamas. The Installation Ceremony and the fortnight's Abishekam were impressive indeed. We are grateful to all Old Boys and others—hostellers in particular—who rallied round us to make the celebrations a success. We must also thank the following gentlemen and bodies who volunteered to contribute to the Abishekam for fourteen days: Messrs S. U. Somasegaram, S. C. Somasundaram, K. V. Navaratnam, S. Sabaretanam, Muhandiram K. Durayappah, S. Muttukumaran, K. Manikavasagar, P. S. Cumaraswamy, S. Amirthalingam, the Staff of J.H.C. The Cubs of J. H. C. the Y. M. H. A of J. H. C. and the staff of the Hindu Organ. A very important work still awaits us and that is the Mandapam which is so essential to the Spiritual needs of the College. We venture to express the hope that the New Committee will give high priority to this project and see that this is completed as early as possible to enable our students to assemble there for their daily prayers.

Progress of the College

In the last report we raised great hopes for the future of the College under the care of our beloved Principal whom we acclaimed as the first Old Boy to be at the helm of affairs. It is our duty to record here our appreciation of the great progress made by the College within the short period of two years. The last Principal's report lists the achievements of the College in studies and other extra-curricular activities of the College. One has merely to look round to see the improvement in buildings. The Administration Block is now a reality. We have also to congratulate the College on winning the much coveted All Island Merit Flag awarded to the Best Scout Troop in the Island

Astrological

WEEKLY FORECASTS

SRIPATHY

FROM 2-2-64 TO 8-2-64.

ARIES *Aswini, Barani, Kartikai 1st part [Medha Rasi]*

Some of your problems will be solved. Strangers will be very helpful. But expenses will be heavy Thursday afternoon, Friday and Saturday must be spent with here.

TAURUS *Kartika 2, 3, 4, Rohini, Mithuna 1, 2 [Idapa Rasi]*

Fathers health should improve. Changes in routine likely. Friends will be very helpful. Fame and social success also indicated.

GEMINI *Mirugasirisha 3, 4, Thiruvathirai, Punarpusam 1, 2, 3 [Mithuna Rasi]*

Health should improve. Some of your worries will disappear. But there will be no mental peace. Ruin to enemies promised.

CANCER *Punarpoosa 4, Poosa, Ayilya [Kataka Rasi]*

Some of your domestic problems will be solved. New ventures will be delayed you will have to face some new problems in your working place.

LEO *Maha, Poora 1, Uttira, [Singha Rasi]*

Ruin to enemies promised. Gains through landed properties also indicated. But there will be no mental peace. Financially a good week.

VIRGO *Uttira 2, 3, 4, Atta Chittirai 1, 2 [Kanni Rasi]*

Ruin to enemies promised. Fame and Social success also indicated. Financially a good week. But minor health upsets likely.

LIBRA *Chittirai 3, 4, Swati, Visaka 1, 2, 3, [Thula Rasi]*

Clashes with relatives shown. You will have no mental peace. Criticisms from relatives and friends will upset you. Mind your health.

SCORPION *Visaka 4, Anusha, Kettai [Vrischika Rasi]*

Gains through landed properties promised. Fame and Social success also indicated. But clashes with relatives shown. Vehicles also will cause you some expenses.

SAGITTARIUS *Moolam Pooradam, Uttiradam 1 [Thamu Rasi]*

Gains through landed properties promised. Friends will help you a good deal. But health upsets likely. Domestic upsets shown.

CAPRICORNUS *Uttiradam 2, 3, 4, Thiruvonam, Avittam 1, 2, [Makara Rasi]*

Some of your personal problems will be solved. Ruin to enemies indicated. Expenses will soar. You will be quick to pick up quarrels.

AQUARIUS *Avittam 3, 4, Satayam, Pooraddati 1, 2, 3 [Kumbha Rasi]*

Abdominal complaints likely. Spend Sunday and Monday with care. Rest of the week will be fairly favourable. Financial gains promised.

PISCES *Pooraddati 4, Uttiraddati, Revati. [Meena Rasi]*

A good week for finances. The first two days will be favourable for new deals. But spend Tuesday evening Wednesday and Thursday with care.

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Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1410

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Ponnambalam Subramaniam of Chunnagam Jaffna Deceased.

Ponnambalam Somasundaram of Chunnagam Jaffna Vs. Petitioner

- 1 Ponnambalam Kanagasabai of Chunnagam Jaffna.
- 2 Ponnambalam Kandappar of Chunnagam Jaffna presently of Kuala Lumpur Malaya
- 3 Sundram widow of S. Mailvaganam of Chunnagam Jaffna and
- 4 Sellamuttupillai widow of S. Mailvaganam Ponnambalam of Chunnagam Jaffna Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before T. Muttusamipillai Esquire Acting District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th December 1963 in the presence of Mr. R. N. Sivapragasam Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 30th September 1963 having been read; It is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration of the estate of the said intestate as brother and one of the heirs and directing that such Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly—unless the Respondents or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this court on or before the 7th day of February, 1964 and state objection or shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 4th day of December 1963 Sgd. N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge, Jaffna. (O. 210, 31 & 7)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1373

In the matter of the intestate estate and effects of the late Saravanamuttu Krishnapillai of Urumpirai Deceased

Pavalaratnam widow of Sinnathamby Saravanamuttu Krishnapillai of Urumpirai Vs. Petitioner

- 1 Gnanasothy daughter of Krishnapillai
- 2 Padmatheevy daughter of Krishnapillai
- 3 Krishnapillai Thirumoorthy
- 4 Thanambika daughter of Krishnapillai
- 5 Krishnapillai Easwaramoorthy and
- 6 Sinnathamby Saravanamuttu all of Urumpirai Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before N. Sivagnanasundaram, Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 28th day of September 1963 in the presence of Mr. A. Subramaniam, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 28th day of September 1963 having been read;

It is ordered that the 6th respondent abovenamed be and he is hereby appointed as the Guardian-ad-Litem over the minors, the 3rd to 5th respondents abovenamed

It is further ordered that the Petitioner abovenamed be

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1386

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Mary Caroline widow of Gabriel Solomon Johnpillai of Cathedral Street, Jaffna Deceased.

Hugh Godfrey Selvaratnam Gregory of 'St. Philomena's' Cathedral Street, Jaffna.

- Vs. Petitioner
- 1 Rose Mary Carmen Ranjitham Gregory.
- Minor 2 Joseph Felix Thurai-ratnam Gregory,
- 3 Elmo Dionysius Gunaratnam Gregory, &
- 4 Rebecca Christina Rose Gregory widow of Emmanuel Joseph Francis Noel Gregory all of "St. Philomena's" Cathedral Street, Jaffna Respondents;

The 2nd and 3rd Respondents being minors appearing by their Guardian-ad-litem the 4th Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before N. Sivagnanasundaram, Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 16th day of October 1963, in the presence of Mr. W. Muttukumaram, Proctor, on the part of the petitioner, and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that (a) the 4th Respondent abovenamed be appointed Guardian-ad-Litem over the 2nd and 3rd minor Respondents to represent them in the proceedings of this Case, (b) that the Petitioner abovenamed be appointed administrator of the estate of the deceased abovenamed, and that Letters of Administration be issued to him accordingly as an heir of the deceased abovenamed, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person interested in the above estate show sufficient cause on or before the 6th day of December 1963 to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the abovenamed 2nd 3rd and 4th Respondents shall appear before this Court at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon on the aforesaid date.

Jaffna, 16th day of October 1963. Sgd. N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge

6-12-1963 This Order Nisi is extended and is made returnable on the 7th day of February 1964.

Sgd. T. Muttusamipillai Acting District Judge. (O 208, 31 & 7)

and she is hereby declared entitled as the lawful widow of the said deceased, to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to her accordingly, unless the respondents or any other person or persons shall on or before the 6th day of December 1963 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 28th day of September 1963 Sgd N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge.

6-12-63 Time to show cause extended till 14-2-64.

Sgd. N. Sivagnanasundaram District Judge, O. 208, 31 & 7

