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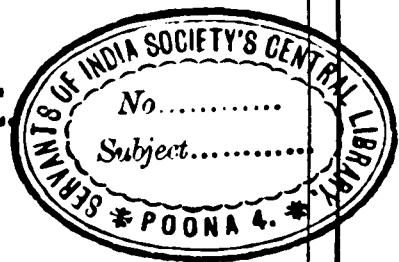


E-012676

REPORT
OF THE
Hides Cess Enquiry
Committee

21st October 1929—18th February 1930

Volume II
EVIDENCE



CALCUTTA: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH
1930

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NOTE.—As regards the method of taking down and preparing the oral evidence para. 8 of the Committee's Report, Volume I, may be seen.

HIDES CESS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND FORWARDING LETTER.

(i) Forwarding letter.

No. 46—H. C./III-E. Q., dated the 23rd October 1929.

SIR,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a questionnaire issued by the Hides Cess Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of India with the following terms of reference:—

“To enquire and report on—

- (1) the articles on which a cess might suitably be imposed and the rate of cess on each article;
- (2) the constitution and personnel of the committee which would administer such a cess; and
- (3) the functions of the committee and the objects on which the cess might be expended.”

I have to request that your replies (as far as possible eight copies printed or typed on one side of paper only) may be sent to me at your earliest convenience. Below is a schedule of the last dates and addresses, by and at which you are requested to kindly send your replies. The Committee regret that as the time during which they have to cover the ground and submit their report is very short, it has not been found possible to give more time for replies to the questionnaire.

Replies from	Last date	To be sent to me at
1. United Provinces	3rd November 1929	Cirenit House, Cantonments, Cawnpore.
2. Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam.	9th November 1929	1, Council House Street, Calcutta.
3. Rest of India including the States.	12th November 1929	1, Council House Street, Calcutta.

Along with your reply you will kindly state whether you or a representative of yours would be available for giving oral evidence in case the Committee should desire to take it. You will please let me know his name, designation and address. Travelling allowance may be given to witnesses in accordance with the Government of India rules on this subject.

You need not answer questions relating to problems with which you find you have no concern. It is however particularly requested that facts and figures be extensively quoted in support of your views and statements. When views or facts are quoted, a detailed reference to the original source may be given.

Any information you can supply on the following points will be highly appreciated:—

- (1) production of hides and skins—both quantity and value—in India or any other area with which you are familiar,
- (2) consumption of hides and skins by the village tanning industry,
- (3) their consumption by the organised tanneries, whether regulated by the Indian Factories Act or not,

- (4) railway freights to and from the ports and from the chief centres from which raw hides and skins are drawn and, in particular, any difficulties experienced in this connection,
- (5) the extent to which reliance has to be placed on hides and skins imported from other provinces or countries, especially from Burma,
- (6) the local manufacture of chemicals for chrome-tannage or the necessity to use imported material, and
- (7) the tariffs on Indian hides and skins, leather and manufactured leather goods in various countries, especially those possessing markets which, apart from the tariff, are promising outlets for the products of the hides and skins industry as a whole.

Some spare copies are herewith enclosed. Also a list* of the persons and bodies to whom a copy has been sent direct. It is requested that copies be supplied out of the spare lot to important persons and firms and bodies interested in the hides-skins trade, the tanning and leather-working industries and associated trades and industries. A list of the names of such persons and bodies may kindly be supplied to me so as to enable me to keep a record of those specially addressed.

The following centres will be visited by a sub-committee of the Committee:—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 4th to 9th November (both inclusive), Cawnpore. | |
| 11th to 15th November (both inclusive), Calcutta. | |
| 18th to 23rd November (both inclusive), Madras. | |
| 25th to 27th November (both inclusive), Trichinopoly. | } Not definitely
fixed yet. |
| 29th to 30th November (both inclusive), Bangalore. | |
| 2nd to 7th December (both inclusive), Bombay. | |
| 9th to 11th December (both inclusive), Karachi. | |

Witnesses appearing for oral evidence will be informed when and where to attend.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 S. P. SHAH,
 Member-Secretary.

(ii) *Questionnaire.*

I. Please give some details of your connection with the export trade or with the tanning industry in India. Have you any interest in any associated trade or industry?

II. Could the proceeds of a cess, in your opinion, be spent profitably for the benefit of the industry as a whole [including (i) the export trade in hides and skins, and in tanned hides and skins, (ii) the tanning industry both for home needs and for export, and (iii) any associated trade or industry etc.]?

III.

EXPORT TRADE.

(a) *Quality of hides and skins.*

Cattle diseases, pests etc.

1. What are the defects found in Indian hides and skins due to cattle diseases and pests?

* Not printed.

2. What action do you suggest for the removal of such defects?

Flaying.

3. What, in your opinion, are the defects in the methods of flaying?
4. What remedies do you suggest?
5. Do you consider that the appointment of flaying instructors and supervisors is likely to yield good results? How would you provide for the instruction of the village flayer?
6. Would you recommend the supply of flaying knives of an approved pattern to the village flayer? If so, on what lines would you organise the supply?
7. Do you consider that any improvement could be brought about in flaying in slaughter-houses? If so, what action do you recommend? What other action on the part of local bodies is, in your opinion, desirable?
8. Have you any information of the success or otherwise of any tried system of bonuses paid to slaughter-house flayers for good flaying? Please add details of the system of which you have experience. Would such a system, in your opinion, be effective?

Curing and preserving.

9. How does the system of curing and preserving in India differ from that followed in other countries?
10. What are the defects in the methods of curing or preserving hides and skins in India?
11. What remedies do you suggest for the removal of such defects?
12. In your opinion, would the question of curing and preserving form a suitable subject for investigation and research at the expense of a cess fund?
13. Can you suggest any organised system for the supply of suitable curing or preserving materials in the villages?

Adulteration.

14. Do you consider that "adulteration" or "loading" exists in a serious form? What effect has it on (a) the export trade and (b) the tanning industry in India?
15. What action do you suggest in order to combat such practices?

Other defects.

16. Are there any other defects in the quality of Indian hides and skins which could be removed? In what manner should action be taken to remove such defects?
17. Can you give some estimate of the percentage by which the value of Indian hides and skins taken as a whole (good, bad and indifferent) is reduced by the existing defects? Please indicate how you arrive at your estimate.

(b) Collection, marketing, export etc.

18. What are the various stages in the trade in hides and skins from the point when the animal dies or is killed to the time of shipment from India or entry into a tannery in India?
19. Is there any scope for improvement at any point, e.g., in transport, raiiling, handling, grading, packing, shipping etc.?
20. Do you consider that co-operative marketing by the producer is feasible? Please give your detailed suggestions. Has co-operative marketing been tried anywhere in India? If so, with what results?

21. Have you any remarks to make regarding the transport of raw hides and skins, tanned hides and skins, curing materials or tanning materials?

22. What is the system of grading of hides and skins (a) for sale to tanners in India and (b) for export?

23. Do you consider that the introduction of a system of standardisation and grading (a) for sale to tanners in India and (b) for export is feasible? If so, please give complete details of any scheme which you consider desirable. Has any such scheme been tried in other countries producing hides for internal consumption or for export? If so, with what results?

IV. TANNING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.

24. Do you consider that funds derived from a cess could be expended with benefit to the tanning industry in India on:—

- (a) Research work in tanning, dyeing and finishing;
- (b) The training of tanners, tannery foremen and leather chemists;
- (c) Developing the supply and quality of Indian tanstuffs;
- (d) Encouragement of various forms of the leather-working industry?

25. What facilities for research work in tanning and associated industries are already available in the area with which you are familiar?

26. Do you consider any expansion or modification of the existing facilities necessary? In particular, are any special facilities required in Madras? If so, what special facilities do you suggest?

27. Do you think the various centres for technological investigation should specialise? If so, please suggest details of the work to be assigned to each and of a scheme for co-ordination and control.

28. What are the existing facilities for the training of tanners, tannery foremen and leather chemists in the area with which you are familiar?

29. If any expansion of these existing facilities is required, what methods do you recommend for the supply of trained tanners etc.? How should the training be imparted to the rural tanner, both adult and adolescent?

30. Do you recommend the establishment of tanning schools and tanning demonstration parties? If so, give details of your suggestions.

31. By what means could the export trade in tanned hides and skins be improved? What are the present practices in the trade in the matter of grading? Do you consider any scheme of standardisation, grading and certification for export feasible? If so, what practical suggestions do you make?

32. What tanstuffs are locally available in the area with which you are familiar? How is the supply organised? Are any improvements needed? Are any other tanstuffs required? How should their supply be organised?

33. Please state your view as to the comparative merits of *casia auriculata* (*āvāram* or *tarwar*) and wattle bark as tanning material. Do you think that the former can be made available in larger quantities and at cheaper rates? If so, in what manner?

V. ADVERTISEMENT.

34. Do you consider that a portion of the cess funds should be applied to advertising for the benefit of the industry as a whole?

35. On what other objects, in addition to those indicated above, do you consider that funds from a cess should be expended for the benefit of the hides and skins trade, the tanning industry and any other associated industry? Please give details of the action necessary in each case.

VI. COST OF SCHEMES PROPOSED.

36. Please give estimates in some detail of the cost of each of the schemes which you have recommended, distinguishing between initial capital expenditure and annual recurring cost.

37. If funds for the schemes which you have proposed were to be obtained by means of a cess, how much money would it be necessary to raise annually?

38. What margin would you allow for expansion?

39. What principles would you suggest should be followed in the application of a cess? On what articles should the cess be levied and at what stage? Should it be levied both on the tanning industry and on the export trade? In the former case, would you restrict it to tanneries regulated under the Indian Factories Act? Please give reasons for your proposals.

40. At what rate or rates should it be levied? How would India's position in the world's markets for raw hides, tanned hides and leather be affected by the imposition of a cess at the rate or rates which you have recommended?

41. Do you recommend that, in the first instance, the cess should be levied for a specified period? If so, for what period?

42. In the event of an export cess being recommended what form should it take? Would a specific rate be preferable to an *ad valorem* rate? Please give your reasons.

VII. CESS COMMITTEE.

43. Are you in favour of the formation of a Committee to administer the proceeds of any cess or cesses which may be imposed? What constitution do you recommend for such a Committee?

44. Which interests would you recognise as being entitled to representation and in what proportions? Who should nominate—the interests themselves or the Governor General in Council on the recommendation of such interests?

45. Which interests (if any) should, in your opinion, be given representation on the Committee by statute, to what extent and in what form? As regards the other interests how, in your opinion, should they be given representation?

46. Should local governments as such be represented on the Committee? If so, should they be represented through the respective Directors of Industries or should the nomination of their representatives be left to them?

47. Should the Indian States be given any representation, and if so, to what extent and in what manner? Who should collect the cess in respect of exports from State ports and how should the proceeds be applied?

48. Are you in favour of giving separate representation to the institutions recognised for technological research? Would you give separate representation to the co-operative movement? If so, how?

49. Would you give the Committee the power to co-opt experts and others interested in the trade or the industry? If so, within what limits and subject to what conditions?

50. Should it have a Chairman *ex-officio*? If so, who should he be? Should it have a Member-Secretary or a mere (*i.e.*, non-Member) Secretary? What qualifications would you expect and what terms would you offer? Who should appoint the Secretary—the Committee or the Governor General in Council? Should he be permanent and whole-time?

51. What functions should be assigned to the Committee? In particular, as regards improvements in flaying and curing, encouragement of the tanning industry in various ways, the commercial organisation of the trade, the collection of statistical and other information etc., what should be the normal relations between the Committee and the Central and the local governments?

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52. Through what agency should the Committee normally act? What executive and office do you recommend?

53. Should it have provincial and local sub-committees? If so, where? What should be their constitution and functions?

54. Do you consider that a special technologist would be necessary or that technological advice should be obtained from the technologists at Calcutta, Cawnpore, Madras etc.?

55. Where should the Committee's headquarters be located? Should it have any branch at any other centre? If so, where and why?