

AKRANI Mahal
(West Khandesh district)

Original settlement

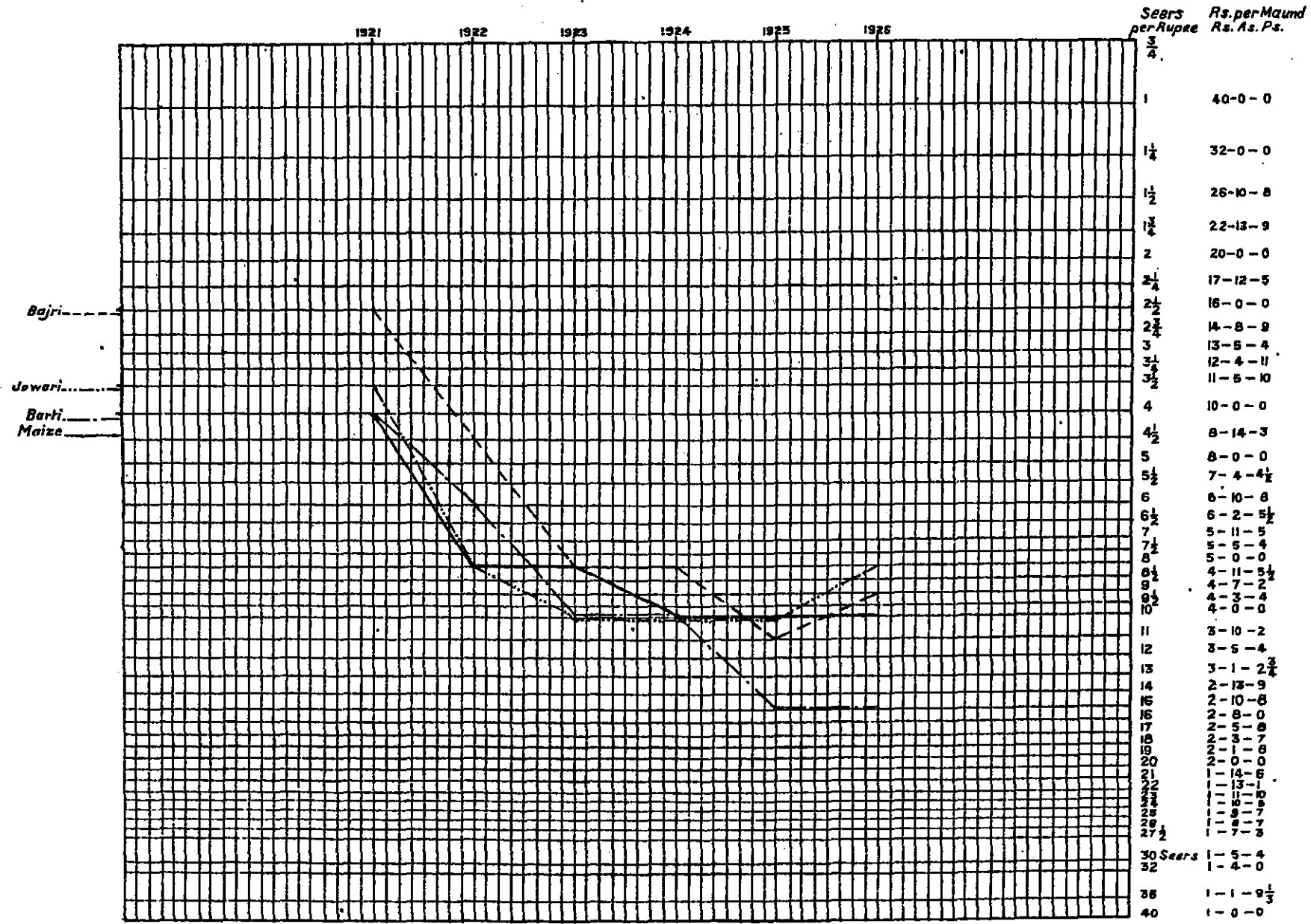
No. DCXLV—New Series

PAPERS
RELATING TO THE
ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT
OF THE
AKRANI MAHAL
OF THE
WEST KHANDESH DISTRICT

[Price—Annas 10 *or* 1s. 1*d.*]

BOMBAY
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1930

PRICE-GRAPH FOR AKRANI MAHAL.



Sears per Rupee	Rs. per Maund Rs. As. Ps.
¾	
1	40-0-0
1¼	32-0-0
1½	26-10-8
1¾	22-13-9
2	20-0-0
2¼	17-12-5
2½	16-0-0
2¾	14-8-9
3	13-5-4
3¼	12-4-11
3½	11-5-10
4	10-0-0
4½	8-14-3
5	8-0-0
5½	7-4-4½
6	6-10-8
6½	6-2-5½
7	5-11-5
7½	5-5-4
8	5-0-0
8½	4-11-5½
9	4-7-2½
9½	4-3-4
10	4-0-0
11	3-10-2
12	3-5-4
13	3-1-2¾
14	2-13-9
15	2-10-8
16	2-8-0
17	2-5-8
18	2-3-7
19	2-1-8
20	2-0-0
21	1-14-6
22	1-13-1
23	1-11-10
24	1-8-8
25	1-6-7
26	1-5-7
27½	1-7-3
30 Sears	1-5-4
32	1-4-0
36	1-1-9½
40	1-0-0

*Index to the correspondence relating to the Original Settlement proposals of Akrani Mahal
of the West Khandesh District.*

—	Paras.	Pages	—	Paras.	Pages
Letter No. S. R. V.-58, dated 19th January 1927, from the Settlement Officer, Akrani Mahal of West Khandesh District .. ..	..	1-9	APPENDICES.		
CONTENTS			Appendix A—Rainfall .. ..	..	10
Introductory remarks	1-3		Do. B—Details of cultivation and crops .. ..	..	11
Boundaries	4-5		Do. D—Agricultural stock .. ..	..	11
Physical features	6-8		Do. E—Shops and industries.. ..	..	12
Soil	9-10		Do. F—Sources of water supply .. ..	..	12
Rainfall	11		Do. I—Prices .. ..	..	12
Climate	12-13		Do. K—Collection of assessment .. ..	..	13
Crops and cultivation	14-19		Do. X—Births and deaths .. ..	..	13
Irrigation	20		Do. Y—Effect of the original Settlement proposals. .. ..	..	14-16
Communications	21-23		Do. Z—Showing number of patients treated at the dispensary at Dhadgaon .. ..	..	17
Fairs and bazars	24-25		Memorandum No. S. R. V.-18, dated 22nd January 1927, from the Collector of West Khandesh, forwarding the Settlement proposals with his remarks .. ..	..	18
Imports and exports	26		Settlement Commissioner's Memorandum No. S.T.-624, dated 11th April 1927, forwarding the Settlement proposals with his remarks to Commissioner, Central Division .. ..	..	19-20
Commerce and industries	27-29		Memorandum No. L.N.D./W. 2/12, dated 23rd January 1928, from the Commissioner, Central Division, submitting the Settlement proposals with his remarks to Government .. ..	..	21
Live and dead stock	30-32		G.R., R.D., No. 9383 dated 28th June 1928, passing order on the original Settlement of Akrani Mahal .. ..	..	22-23
Wages	33-34				
Population, habits of the people, births and deaths, and other general remarks	35-43				
Education	44				
Sales and leases	45-46				
Rates	47-58				
Grouping	59-65				
Effect of the Settlement proposals, and guarantee	66-67				
General remarks	68-69				

From

T. T. KOTHAVALA, Esquire, M.A., B.Sc., B.C.S.,
Settlement Officer, Akrani Mahal,
District West Khandesh;

To

THE COLLECTOR OF WEST KHANDESH,
Dhulia.

Subject.—Original Settlement Proposals of Akrani Mahal.

Dhulia, 19th January 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit proposals for the original settlement of the 67 surveyed villages of the Akrani Mahal, to which survey rates are to be applied for the first time.

2. The survey of the Mahal was carried out under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 295 dated 15th January 1900. The survey operations began in the year 1901 and were carried on till 1907, by which time 67 villages had been surveyed. The survey of the remaining 79 villages was held over indefinitely as it was pointed out that the benefits derived from the survey would not be commensurate with the expenditure and the time spent on subjecting these hilly tracts to the operations of measurement and classification.

3. The settlement of these surveyed villages was not taken in hand till last year as it was thought that it would not be proper to disturb the old scale and fashion of collecting land revenue which were congenial to the administration of the wild aboriginal tribes cultivating these regions.

4. The Akarni Mahal lies to the North-West of the District beyond the precipitous walls of the Satpuras, which separate it from the Taloda Taluka to its south. It is bounded on the East by the Barwani State and on West by the Kathi estate while to the North of the Mahal flows the Narbada beyond which lie the states of Mathwar and Rewa Kantha.

5. The 67 villages which are to be settled lie to the east of the Mahal, between the Tinshamal and Asthamba Ranges, and form a fairly compact pear-shaped tract with the apex to the south.

6. Barring a few villages along the Narbada the tract to be settled is the most level portion of this mountainous region. Some level patches are found round about Dhadgaon. Very few villages have all their fields level. As we proceed from this central pleateau the ground becomes more and more broken up till down south, after Mundvani Budruk the surface is so crumpled up that hardly a field is fairly level and agriculture dwindles down to cultivating undulating patches of soil separated by rude hillocks or rocky streams. At Astamba—the extreme south—the major portion of cultivation is along the terraced shoulders of high hills. The plateau breaks up rather suddenly to the West along the line formed by Murukh Khurd, Mundalvad, Survani and Nandalwara, whence, after a steep descent, it continues in huge wrinkles along a series of low ranges which continue to the Kathi estate.

7. No big river passes through the tract, the upper plateau of which is drained by the Qdai river and the lower western part by the Khad stream. Both these discharge into the Narbada after very tortuous courses. They do not flow throughout the year. During the rains the flow is torrential while for the major portion of the year it shrinks to a thin dribble from pool to pool.

8. It is necessary to consider the physical features in detail as they form an important factor in the formation of the groups.

9. The soil varies considerably and there are all shades from the rich black soil of Roshmal and Dhanaja to the thin layer of earth which cannot yield crops more than once in four years. Even in a village, soil varies considerably in a comparatively confined area.

It might be fairly dark and rich along the bed of a nala and tail off to the pale yellow "barad" on the neighbouring hillock.

10. The black soil is fertile and retentive of moisture and can bear good crops. Last year the enterprising patil of Roshmal grew cotton—reported to be the first time in history—and got a good crop but the scarcity of labour due to the sparse population made the experiment unremunerative. Most of the soil is murumy darkish brown, well fitted for bajri and jowari which are extensively cultivated.

11. Rain is recorded at Dhadgaon only. Appendix A gives the required information. The rainfall, on the average, is 30 inches and is usually assured and seasonable. It is, heavier along the high ranges of Tinshamal and Astamba. Record beyond 1911 is not available. During the last 15 years there have been only three lean years—1911, 1918 and 1925—all due to a failure of late rains. Last year though it rained well in June there was hardly any fall after July. Absence of serious famine has made the people indifferent to economical habits of saving against calamities and creating credit through savings.

12. Two handicaps have retarded the development of the Mahal, bad communication and bad climate. Appendix Z shows the number of patients treated at the dispensary opened at Dhadgaon in 1920. Last year 1,172 patients were treated out of 12,982, the total population of the Mahal. The figure becomes more eloquent when the natural antipathy of a Bhil to go to a dispensary for treatment is realised. He has his own herbs, and has a greater faith in the potency of witchcraft and in propitiating a particular deity who wrathfully inflicts diseases on him.

13. The filthy habit of housing the cattle in the same building accounts for the prevalence of skin diseases. The climate is unhealthy during the rains and in the cold weather, when the whole area suffers from malaria of a very malignant type. It would not be surprising if malaria was found to be a great drag on the progress of civilization, even after the country has been developed by improved communications. Inhabitants of the plains dread the fever infested atmosphere of the Akrani and do not remain there any longer than is necessary while Government servants look upon a transfer to the Mahal as a punishment.

14. Appendix B gives the gross cropped area and the area under each of the principal crops. The figures are all "Nazarbandi" *i. e.*, eye-estimate; they should not be pressed too hard. They only give a rough idea about the distribution of crops. Bajri, jowari and maize are the principal crops and are extensively cultivated in the more level areas round about Dhadgaon. Near the hill ranges where the soil is lighter and the rainfall heavier, these give place to coarser hill millets of which barti and mor are the principal.

15. Even in a village the distribution of crops is peculiar. Rice is cultivated in the few water logged acres in the bed of the valley. In the Akrani there are no regular villages. A few huts cluster in the centre of cultivable or cultivated areas, the official village being the "Patol" or where the Patel has his house. Maize is preferably grown round about the huts, that being usually the best part of the field and easily watched and manured. Manuring is done by the simple method of throwing in indiscriminately the daily dung round about the house. The agricultural philosophy of the Bhil and Pawra of the Akrani is just to get sufficient to feed upon with the minimum of labour. Beyond the fields of maize comes the zone of average land where jowari and bajri, the staple foods, are grown and lastly some rough millets on the still poorer lands.

16. Cultivation is of the crudest kind, the only implement usually used being a light plough drawn by two bullocks. Seeds are usually scattered by the hand. As the rainfall is not very heavy continuous weeding is unnecessary except for a short time in August.

17. It is obvious that with sufficient labour, cultivation could improve substantially. Plenty of manure is available but no effort is made to improve the soil either by manuring it or raising tals. I have seen more labour put into poorer soils in the hilly regions of Satara.

18. Last year was a lean year. I told them that had they built tals and conserved moisture they would have got better crops. The unsophisticated answer

was "What does it matter? This year we put a little more water in our porridge and that fills our stomachs almost as well."

19. Population being sparse, plenty of cultivable fallow is available. As soon as a cultivator finds that he is exhausting the land he shifts to another patch. The best soil—usually under maize—is the only portion that is cultivated year after year. For the others cultivation is shifted on the slightest pretext. Having but a nebulous notion of private property they find it easy to yield to the primitive nomadic instinct and at times shift a whole bunch of huts to propitiate any witch that is particularly nasty and has caused a couple of deaths in succession. The effect of these propensities on agriculture is obvious. Seldom will any one diligently try to improve a field which he may give up at any time.

20. There is no irrigation either by pats or wells. The liquor shop-keeper at Roshmal, who has some land, has sunk a well and tries to grow better crops, but the experiment is too recent to draw any conclusions from.

21. Shut up by the serrated Satpura ranges, the tract is greatly hampered by lack of communications. Trade trickles in by a couple of thin mountainous foot-paths. The principal routes are the Taloda-Dhadgaon Road over the precipitous Chandseji Ghat and the Dhadgaon-Shahada track which trails over the mountains from Dara to Mandvi. The former links Dhadgaon with Taloda, its principal bazar 26 miles away, and the latter with Shahada another market about 40 miles away. These are the only outlets this remote region has to the valley of the Tapti. Of lesser importance are the paths leading from Dhadgaon to the Narbada about 16 miles away at Domkhedi and Bhusa and from Dhadgaon to Kathi and Toranmal. Most of these are nothing beyond mountainous paths good enough for the agile Bhil and the pack donkeys which carry the exports and the imports.

22. Want of communications hampers the development of this region. There are extensive stretches of second class timber and bamboo, of considerable value, waiting to be brought to market at Nandurbar or to the Narbada to float down to the markets along its banks. Nandurbar the nearest railway station is 40 miles from Dhadgaon.

23. Carts are unknown except for one at Dhadgaon which carries liquor from the distillery to the shop half a mile away and another made by the Missionaries of Mundalvad by requisitioning the iron wheels of a scrapped mowing machine.

24. There are two fairs in the tract, associated in each case with religious custom. One on the peak of Asthamba Hill where no bazar is held and the other at Dhadgaon where there is a poor bazar. A fair is also held at Toranmal but that too hardly has any influence on the economic life of the people.

25. There are no bazars in the tract. The principle bazar is that at Taloda and it is this market which mainly absorbs the surplus product of Akrani and exchanges it for the commodities supplying the simple needs of the people. The other bazar is Shahada.

26. Inquiries with local officers and others elicit the following figures of exports and imports in a year from the market at Taloda—

Name of article	To Taloda	Name of article	From Taloda
	Rs.		Rs.
Bajri	3,000	Wheat	500
Chavli	1,500	Rice	200
Udid	550	Salt	300
Sesame	500	Onions	300
Rosha oil	4,000	Chillies	250
Jowari	350	Masala	100
Mango	1,000	Sugar & Gul	75
Charoli	1,000	Tobacco	200
Tolambi	200	Cloth	4,000
Total	12,100		5,925

The figures are necessarily approximate but are reliable enough to show that after selling their surplus corn and natural produce, the inhabitants not only have sufficient to spend on their necessities but have an excess which they spend on their one luxury—drink. Besides this, the people in a year buy about 250 head of cattle valued at Rs. 8,750 and sell about 500 valued at Rs. 22,000 the surplus being homebred. This is done without any apparent expenditure, as grazing is free. Appendix I shows the rates of corn prevailing in Akrani. They are not very reliable. The prices are ruled by those obtaining in Taloda and the surplus corn available locally.

27. There are no industries beyond 42 cotton hand looms worked by Mahars who produce coarse cloth from imported yarn and sell it for local consumption. The distilling of Rosha oil is another crude industry.

28. Commerce consists mainly of selling surplus corn and handy and natural produce like mangoes, charoli and mhowra seeds. Want of easy transport hinders the sale of fodder and fuel. A very lucrative business is buying cheap, young cattle from the bazars of Malwa and after they are fattened on the free grass, selling them at good prices in the bazars along the Tapti.

29. Appendix E shows the number of looms and liquor shops. There are four liquor shops with the following average sales for the last five years :—

Shop	No. of gallons sold	Amount realised Rs.
Unrani	8,950	13,425
Murukh	5,528	8,292
Bhanoli	3,101	4,652
Kakrpati	4,035	6,112

30. There has been no regular census of live stock as V. F. XV has not been maintained. In 1924 some information was collected to levy grazing fees and that has been made available in Appendix D. The figures are unreliable as 3,000 bullocks would not be sufficient for 1,850 ploughs; besides the young stock is omitted. As has been observed this young stock is a valuable asset to the agricultural prosperity of the tract, being bought cheap in Nemar, grazed free and used or sold at a profit in the bazars of Khandesh.

31. There are 1,609 khatedars. The return shows almost an average of a pair of bullocks, and over a plough, per khatedar. This shows that the khatedars have the stock they want.

32. The ploughs are light and crude and of local manufacture and do not furrow very deep.

33. The immobility of labour combined with the natural indolence of the people makes the labour problem interesting. Were the soil well cultivated there would not be sufficient labour available to obtain the maximum out of it. The only experiment attempted for a cotton crop failed as labour was not available to pick it. The little labour put in during weeding and harvesting is paid at the rate of annas two, with one meal per head. This is low compared to the 6 to 8 annas charged from Government. The low private wages are probably due to the clan system of these mountainous people. They work for each other just for the food and drink.

34. Saldari system so extensively adopted in the plains is unknown. This species of slavery would be incompatible with their notions of sylvan freedom and indolence.

35. Except a few Mahars the population consists of Bhils and Pawras whose jargon of a mixture of Gujrati, Marathi and Hindi proclaims them to be the remnants of vanquished races driven to the hospitality and protection of this rude land by the oppression and terror of the conquering hordes who established themselves on the fertile valleys of the Narbada and the Tapti. Naturally indolent, they have done nothing for centuries except just carry on life with a minimum of wants requiring a still smaller minimum of effort.

36. From their lands they expect sufficient to feed them, keeping the major portion of their produce for their own consumption and bartering the rest for salt and chillies or in a bumper year for the very few clothes they require. As the habits of these people are reflected on the state of agriculture I made enquiries into the domestic budget of about a hundred families with the following results.

37. The agriculturist lives on or as near his land as water facilities allow, in huts made by himself out of bamboos. Most of the huts are thatched but the richer and more enterprising persons now have them tiled, not because a tiled roof affords a better protection, but because it saves the trouble of renewing the thatch repeatedly. The family usually consists of five persons and to support them he takes up on the average land cultivated by 1·4 ploughs. On the average he sows 5 seers of bajri, 7 seers jowari, 5 seers maize, 3 seers burti, 3 seers mor, 1½ seers rice. The quantity varies according to locality. Seeds are seldom purchased. They are either borrowed or preserved and so no expenditure is incurred. Bullocks cost nothing for their upkeep as grazing is free in all revenue waste numbers and no grain is given to the animals. Ploughs and ropes are usually made at home the only cost being on the average about 6 annas for a plough-share from Taloda and annas 2 pies 6 for ropes.

38. The family helps in cultivation. Outside labour is requisitioned for a few days for weeding and harvesting. The average cost per family for labour, including the food supplied, is Rs. 3. On the average the khatedar pays Rs. 2-7-0 as assessment. This is all the expense the agriculturist has to incur on agriculture. Out of the produce he keeps all the grain he requires and sells on the average bajri worth Rs. 6-5-0, jowari worth Rs. 7-13-0, maize worth Rs. 5-2-0, bunti worth 13 annas, mor worth Rs. 1-9-0 and rice worth 7 annas and 6 pies. Besides these he obtains about Rs. 4-3-0 from selling mangoes, Rs. 3 from selling mhowra flowers, Re. 1 from charoli, Rs. 2-5-0 from Government or private labour and Rs. 6-12-0 from cattle.

39. The expenses of the family come to Rs. 12 for clothes, Rs. 1-11-0 for ornaments, Rs. 5 for liquor, annas 12 for pots, Rs. 1-11-0 for salt, annas 9 for chillies, annas 8 for spices, annas 10 for onions and Rs. 1-6-0 for tobacco.

40. These figures give a rough idea about the habits of the people and what they expect from agriculture. The Akrani cultivator expects that his land should feed him, pay for the few expenses of agriculture and leave him enough surplus to bring salt, chillies, spices, onions, tobacco and a few clothes. If all this is obtained he believes he has had a good year. From the sale of mangoes, charoli, etc., which he gets free, he buys his one and only luxury—liquor. The Akranis live for liquor. From the first drink the new born baby has at christening, to the last "wake" when the farewell drink is poured down the stiff throat of the dead man, there is hardly a function or a ceremony in which liquor does not play a prominent if not the only part. Even to the women, the luxury of ornaments is subordinate to the luxury of drink. They hardly invest anything in ornaments except to buy a few beads and heavy brass anklets which are reminiscent of the times when they loaded the legs of a looted bride to prevent her escape. For unforeseen expenses such as a death or a marriage in the family, the cultivator usually resorts to selling his cattle. He always keeps them in reserve as that costs him nothing. Possession of cattle is almost the only outward expression of wealth. The propriety of including proceeds of sales from mangoes, mhowra, charoli and cattle may well be questioned. But in Akrani, possession of land gives the occupant a privilege to collect mhowra and charoli and grow mango trees wherever he likes and graze his cattle free and these having distinct marketable value must be taken into account in assessing the agricultural prosperity as the profit is derived through the natural powers of the land.

41. Appendix X gives the number of births and deaths recorded during the last 15 years. Though no stress can be laid on the figures they show that the population is on the increase.

42. The population of the 67 villages is 8,423 with 1,609 khatedars. This works out at one person in five being a khatedar which means that practically the head of every family is an agriculturist and owns land. The Forest Department gives 14,705 acres as being under the plough. This might be an under estimate because, if correct, it would mean a holding of 9·1 acres of this land supporting five

persons in a purely agricultural tract. The survey figures of cultivable land, which includes fallow due to rotation, is 38,481 acres, and approximates a more reasonable holding.

43. The people are simple, inoffensive, timid, honest and crude but listless, indolent and superstitious, given to drink and telling the truth. An abstract idea is almost incomprehensible to them. Their language is all concrete and even figures do not go beyond 20—the number of their fingers and toes. They live almost entirely on agriculture or the produce of their land.

44. The people are mostly illiterate. There are two schools, one maintained by the Local Board at Dhadgaon which has an average attendance of 12 pupils and the other maintained by the Swedish Mission at Mundalvad with an average attendance of 30 pupils. Girls do not receive any education, except a few at the mission school.

45. Private ownership in land is not recognised in the Akrani Mahal. There is a flat rate of 4 annas per acre on any land the agriculturist cultivates in a year. In practice, the best lands have been under cultivation hereditarily by particular families for such long periods that ownership in them is executively recognised and no one else is allowed to take them up unless the old owner definitely relinquishes the plot. The injustice of the present system which penalizes the cultivation of inferior lands is too obvious to need comment. It taxes poor lands out of cultivation and retards expansion of the cultivated area.

46. There are no sales or leases, and appendices G and H are blank. On account of this the most important factor which guides a Settlement Officer is missing. There are no data to show how the cultivator values his land and how he assesses it himself. Owing to the absence of information regarding the value of land or profits of agriculture, the net assets of the land holder cannot be ascertained and grouping and rates have to be arrived at after various circuitous considerations.

47. Ordinarily the maximum rate ought to be one-half the rental value of the land. This being not available, the rates have been fixed after considering the incidence of the present rates, the rates fixed in the adjoining Kathi Estate and on similar lands in the surrounding Shahada and Taloda talukas.

48. The past revenue history, the present condition of the agricultural classes, the state of the region and of cultivation, the prices of produce, the amount of present realization and its effect on the people, the probable effect of the graduated assessment on the more advanced and richer cultivators and the fact that there is no immediate quantitative relation between the tax paid by the individual and the service rendered to him by the state have afforded the chief ground work for determining the rates and modulating them so that the tract can bear them with ease. The principal consideration has not been an enhancement of assessment but the fixation of a fair and graduated demand instead of an incongruous flat rate on all the lands in all the villages. It is true that with the depreciation in the value of the rupee alone the tract can bear a slight enhancement but the present unchanged tax having been amortized does not make itself felt as it has merged into the family budget and the standard of living. In fixing a graduating scale of assessment the average of which approximates the flat rate at present levied on the average lands, the richer land owned by the better classes will naturally be heavily assessed even though the average be not raised, so a deliberate enhancement of assessment would increase the tax on the richer land disproportionately.

49. Besides, in theory the assessment is the sum that may normally be collected in a normal season. Even though fortunately the income out of which the assessment has to be paid does not fluctuate enormously as the vagaries of the monsoon are not acute, the Akrani has as yet no notion of regarding a good year as an insurance against a lean one, but only considers it as a fitting occasion for a larger expenditure. He would have no private savings to pay a heavy assessment in a lean year, nor would he have any credit to borrow on such occasions. The money lender does not and cannot exist in the Akrani except in a couple of villages where the wealthier patils advance money.

50. There is no pressure on land. The little there is, is due to paucity of alternative employments and the rooted aversion and distaste for any regular labour. All this would tend to drive out the cultivators from richer lands if the assessment were increased beyond the bare necessities of equity.

51. Considering all this, it is recommended that the maximum rate for the best lands round about Dhadgaon which have certain advantages and have been formed into group I should be 12 annas and of the remaining portion, *i.e.*, group II, 8 annas.

52. The rise from 4 annas to 12 annas certainly appears to be stupendous, but considering all the circumstances it is very equitable. The rise will affect only a few very rich and level survey numbers in Dhadgaon, Roshmal, Harankhuri and Dhanaja. The soil here is deep black and can and has produced a good crop of cotton. This soil in the plains would have a maximum rate of about Rs. 3. Even here good land is so little that in no village does the average go beyond 4 annas 9 pies while the average for the whole group is as low as 3 annas 5 pies, *i.e.*, lower than the existing flat rate of annas 4 per acre.

53. Compared to the rates of villages surrounding this tract, 12 annas as the maximum rate will not be found to be too high. Kothar, the nearest village in the Taloda Taluka just at the foot of the ranges, has the maximum rate of Rs. 1-2-0 with an average rate of annas 5 per acre. In comparison to the land in the first group of Akrani that of Kothar is decidedly inferior though it has the advantage of very close proximity to the bazar at Taloda. In the Shahada Taluka in the Nagziri Forest village just below the Akrani Mahal, the flat assessment for better soil is 8 annas and for inferior 4 annas per acre, giving an average of 5 annas 1 pie per acre. Even here the soil is inferior and approximates that in the second group. In the adjoining revenue village Chirde the maximum rate is Re. 1 with an average assessment of 9 annas 3 pies per acre. All these villages are very well off as regards proximity to bazars and markets and communications. Carts make their transport easy and cheap. In the Kathi estate which has the autbandi system of assessing land, lands similar to those round about Dhadgaon are assessed at Rs. 6-8-0 per plough. Local inquiries showed that on the average they have 10 to 12 acres under one plough. Even at 12 acres the average assessment comes to 8 annas 8 pies per acre, though they are in many ways worse off as the market is a long way off and communication is poor.

54. Thus it is evident that the maximum rate of 12 annas giving an average of 3 annas 5 pies for the group is not high. As there are no gaothans in the Akrani there will hardly be any depreciation for distance from the village in calculating the anna prat and so for the few best survey numbers the assessment will be about 9 annas an acre. As this is a substantial increase over the existing rate of 4 annas an acre, raising the maximum rate above 12 annas would be a great hardship to many khatedars.

55. Taking the best land in Dhadgaon, Roshmal, Harankhuri and Dhanaja as the standard, group I has been formed of 26 villages which have certain advantages of communications, rainfall, physical features and distances from Taloda, the only bazar.

56. The remaining 41 villages are formed into a second group as they do not have the same amenities. Their maximum rate is fixed at 8 annas. The average rate per acre for the whole group is 2 annas 1 pie and in no village does it exceed 2 annas 10 pies.

57. Appendix Y shows the villages in each group and the average assessment per acre per village.

58. The effect of this will be to consolidate good holdings where assessment is heavy and leave a considerable fringe of medium and poor lands with rates low enough to attract and settle new comers.

59. The advantages and disadvantages the tract has are apparently so uniform that at first there is a temptation to lump the tract into one group. But observation reveals that some villages have more advantages than others.

60. The main factors for consideration in grouping are communications, distance from Taloda—the main bazar—physical features, and rainfall. As the most noticeable variations are in physical features the tract is mainly divided into groups homogeneous as to physical characteristics and some villages are added or removed for other advantages or disadvantages. Appendix Y shows this for each village.

61. The tract has a central fairly flat plateau round about Dhadgaon which crumples up into hillocks and ravines as we proceed to the north-east and south, while to the west beyond the Nandalwada Jamanvai Mundalvad line it drops down precipitously and continues broken. This central plateau has great advantages. The ground is flat and the fields are readily accessible and easily cultivated. This is roughly group No. I. The group has the additional advantage of good communication as all roads radiate from Dhadgaon. Where trade is entirely carried on foot or by pack animals, accessibility is an advantage. To the agile inhabitants, a couple of miles more or less hardly makes any difference but the traders who come from Taloda have a natural tendency to keep to the roads. This gives the inhabitants of villages along the roads the advantage of better competition.

62. The main bazar being Taloda, distances from it count and on that account villages to the extreme north, along the Tinsamal ranges, come in the second group, as they are over 30 miles from Taloda.

63. The heavy rainfall along the high ranges to the north and south, though an advantage on account of the more assured monsoon is also a disadvantage as the coarser grains which can stand it have a less marketable value. This also makes two groups necessary.

64. All this broadly shows how the two groups are planned. Often where a particular village has equal advantages and disadvantages, the rate to be fixed is tested by the aggregate demand instead of the aggregate by the rate, and a fair figure arrived at.

65. The villages shown below are on the central plateau. Their fields are fairly flat and easy of cultivation and they lie along the roads that radiate from Dhadgaon and are about 25 miles from Taloda. They naturally form the first group, as they enjoy all the advantages the tract can afford.

Ambari.	Chondwad Khurd.	Kusumveri.	Sumane.
Bhujgaon.	Dhadgaon.	Mankhedhi.	Survani.
Bilbarpada	Danaja Budruk.	Mundalvad.	Tembla.
(of Kamod Khurd).	Dhavidipada.	Nandalvad.	Umbrani Budruk.
Bugwada Budruk.	Harankhuri.	Navegaon.	Umbrani Khurd.
Bugwada Khurd.	Jamunwai.	Palkha.	Varphalia.
Chondwad Budruk.	Kharda.	Roshmal Budruk.	

The remaining villages which fringe this plateau form the second group. They are so circumstanced that the cultivators are handicapped on account of distance from Taloda their market, or lands being cut up cultivation is difficult, or are not along main roads, or have excessive rainfall where only coarser grains flourish. Appendix Y shows the advantage or the disadvantage each village has.

66. The effects of these proposals on the land revenue cannot be estimated. At present a cultivator does not pay the cess on all the land in his possession but only on the portion he actually cultivates. He does not restrict himself to any survey number and his actual cultivated holding was found in many cases to be out of two or three survey numbers. With the introduction of these proposals he will have to restrict his possession to the land he can or hopes to cultivate according to survey numbers. Presuming the figure of area cultivated in each village according to the Forest Department to be correct (Appendix Y, Col. 3) and that the best land available in each village is under the plough there ought to be an increase in

the land revenue which will go on expanding as the poorer land now lightly assessed is also taken up.

67. As the effects of the settlement cannot be forecasted with precision, there is an obvious temptation to shorten the period of guarantee. But as Government have the power at any time to reduce the rates if found unduly heavy—which I do not think will happen as the assessment has been calculated and checked per survey number—and as a longer period will produce a feeling of greater security through a stabilization of the demand, it is recommended that the guarantee should be for the usual period of 30 years.

68. The rates of the period of guarantee do not apply to non-agricultural lands.

69. I venture to conclude with a remark on a point which forms the subject of a separate report. Government Notification No. 9383 dated 28th June 1926, Revenue Department, makes the provisions of section 73-A of the Land Revenue Code applicable to the 67 villages and private ownership in land is recognised for the first time in the Akrani. With the introduction of the settlement a more specialised form of land revenue administration will be imported, and if the settlement is to be a success and the poor cultivator is to derive the benefit from the new sliding scale of assessment, the present simple mode of administration through Forest Guards should be replaced by expert Revenue Administration through Talatis and Mahalkaris. Without trying to be captious I might mention that when checking the existing forms, I seldom found that the forester had kept his few records up to date. As has been seen, hardly any information is available and where available the figures are often unreliable. Paucity of information has added considerably to the difficulties of formulating the present proposals and unless matters improve, the difficulty will be aggravated when the settlement is to be revised. Looking to the condition of the Mahal the present administration is not to blame. Perhaps it has been an improvement on the primitive revenue administration from which it took over, and considering the inhospitable tract and the wild people it has had to deal with it, has carried on the administration of a new department well. But if the object of the settlement is to recognise and develop a proprietary right in land for settling a backward agricultural population, then the initial steps require careful and intelligent supervision by officers trained in that branch of administration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. T. KOTHAVALA,
Settlement Officer, Akrani Mahal,
West Khandesh.

APPENDIX A

Rainfall recorded at Dhadgaon, District West Khandesh

Year	Early rain (1st January to 10th April)		Antemonsoon (11th April to 4th June)		Monsoon, Kharif (5th June to 14th August)		Monsoon, Rabi (15th August to 21st October)		Late rains (22nd Octo- ber to 31st December)		Total		Remarks
	Fall	Rainy days	Fall	Rainy days	Fall	Rainy days	Fall	Rainy days	Fall	Rainy days	Fall	Rainy days	
	Inches	No.	Inches	No.	Inches	No.	Inches	No.	Inches	No.	Inches	No.	
1911 ..	..	..	1.21	2	11.73	23	2.90	13	..	..	15.84	38	
1912 ..	..	..	..	..	19.31	32	6.40	15	3.66	2	29.37	49	
1913 ..	..	..	0.94	2	22.78	47	8.80	19	..	..	32.52	66	
1914 ..	..	..	0.74	2	26.22	54	12.66	21	..	..	39.62	77	
1915 ..	0.62	7	0.18	2	18.83	31	12.69	20	0.15	2	32.47	62	
1916 ..	..	..	1.1	3	26.97	35	9.36	35	1.79	4	39.13	77	
1917 ..	0.89	4	1.75	8	13.61	45	33.6	41	2.74	2	52.5	100	
1918 ..	..	..	0.50	4	6.66	21	2.87	13	..	..	10.3	38	
1919 ..	0.22	2	0.65	2	27.25	42	10.90	27	0.41	2	39.43	75	
1920 ..	6.12	6	0.74	3	12.82	37	7.43	16	..	..	27.11	62	
1921 ..	..	..	..	..	21.1	33	11.5	20	..	..	32.6	58	
1922 ..	..	..	0.6	1	7.65	30	15.26	23	0.18	1	23.15	56	
1923 ..	1.88	7	..	..	12.24	26	9.10	7	..	..	23.22	40	
1924 ..	..	..	..	..	8.13	38	20.3	43	0.12	1	28.28	82	
1925 ..	..	..	4.6	4	19.38	48	1.46	12	1.67	7	26.57	71	
Average ..	0.65	1.73	0.79	2.2	16.97	36.13	10.98	21.67	0.77	1.4	30.6	63.13	

APPENDIX B

Details of Cultivation and Crops in the 67 Villages of the Akrani Mahal in Taloda Taluka of the West Khandesh Collectorate

1 Number of Villages	Cultivated and Uncultivated Area										Crops (Details of Column 2)										
	2 Gross cropped area (T. F. XX).	3 Deduct twice cropped	4 Deduct Crops in unassessed land	5 Net assessed cropped area	6 Add fallows	7 Total area occupied for cultivation	8 Cultivable waste unoccupied and unassessed	9 Not available for cultivation		11 Gross area	I. Cereals and II. Pulses										
								9 Forest	10 Other including uncultivable		12 Rice	13 Wheat	14 Barley	15 Jowar	16 Bajri	17 Bajl	18 Maize	19 Gram	20 Other cereals and pulses	21 Total	
67	14,705*	..	14,705*	..	..	14,705*	23,776	..	23,681	62,112	342*	..	1,128*	4,984*	3,739*	1,042*	2,497*	104*	800*	14,705*
	Percentages of crops on the grass are cropped										..	2.8	..	7.7	33.9	25.4	7.1	17	1.1	5.5	100.0

Crops (Details of Column 2)—contd.

Crops (Details of Column 2)—contd.																		Remarks
Oil seeds						28 Condiments and Spices	Sugars		Fibres		Drugs and Narcotics			37 Fodder	38 Fruits and vegetables including root crops			
22 Linseed	23 Til	24 Rape and Mustard	25 Groundnut	26 Others	27 Total		29 Cane	30 Palm trees	31 Cotton	32 Others	33 Dyes	34 Tobacco	35 Others			36 Total		
..
..

* Are figures supplied by the Forest Department and may not be reliable.

APPENDIX D

Agricultural stock of Government Villages in Akrani Mahal in Taloda Taluka of West Khandesh District

No. of Villages	No. of Bullocks	No. of Cows	No. of He-Buffaloes	No. of She-Buffaloes	No. of Horses	No. of Goats
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67	3,087	2,944	48	378	69	1,110

APPENDIX D—contd.

Total No. of Cattle	No. of Plough		No. of Carts		Remarks
	Small	Large	For Passengers	For produce and goods	
8	9	10	11	12	13
7,616	1,857	....	1	2	....

The standard form is slightly altered as all information is not available.

APPENDIX E

Shops, Industries, etc., in the Villages of the Akrani Mahal, Taluka Taloda

Liquor Shops	Hand Industries							Mechanical Power				
	Oil Presses	Cotton Looms	Woollen Looms	Silk Looms	Gins			Gins	Rice Husking Machine	Cotton Presses	Steam Pumps	Oil Engine Pumps
4	..	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

ABSTRACT OF APPENDIX F

District	Details	Wells, Bhudkis and the like		Tanks		Other Sources	
		Pakka	Kacha	Pakka	Kacha	Pakka	Kacha
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Akran Mahal in West Khandesh	For irrigation	1	..	..	..	..	..
	For drinking supply of human beings but not for irrigation ..	4	21	..	..	..	..
	For cattle and washing and other purposes, etc. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	In disuse .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	5	21	..	..	..	..
	Totals recorded at the previous settlements .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX I

Prices prevalent in the Akrani Mahal in Taloda Taluka from 1920-21 to 1925-26 (as plotted in the accompanying Diagram)

Years	Sears of 80 Tolas per Rupee and Chhatak=5 Tolas									Remarks
	Jawari	Bajri	Wheat	Gram	Rice	Barti	Maize	Uddi	Chavli	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	
1920-21 ..	8 8	2 8	2 4	2 11	2 0	4 0	4 0	2 0	1 8	Information before 1920-21 is not available.
1921-22 ..	8 0	4 8	3 5	5 0	2 8	6 0	8 0	2 0	5 0	
1922-23 ..	10 0	8 0	3 5	6 11	2 8	10 0	8 0	8 0	5 0	
1923-24 ..	10 0	8 0	5 0	6 0	4 0	10 0	10 0	8 0	10 0	
1924-25 ..	10 0	11 0	3 5	7 0	2 8	15 0	10 0	8 0	8 0	
1925-26 ..	8 0	9 0	3 0	6 0	2 0	15 0	10 0	6 0	6 0	
Average ..	8 4	7 3	3 6	5 9	2 9	10 0	8 6	5 11	5 15	

Note.—Prices for 1920-21 were high as there was scarcity in the plains below and a lot of grain was exported from Akranl.

APPENDIX K

Collection of Assessment on Government land in the Villages of Akrani Mahal of the Taluka of Taloda in West Khandesh

Year	Demand	Out of which remitted in same or subsequent year	Outstandings at end of year	
			Authorised	Unauthorised
	2	3	4	5
	Rs. a. p.			
1910-11	2,241 9 4	.....	.....	.....
1911-12	2,145 1 8	.....	.....	.....
1912-13	2,245 13 9	.....	.....	.....
1913-14	2,372 11 7	.....	.....	.....
1914-15	2,478 0 7	.....	.....	.....
1915-16	2,707 1 7	.....	.....	.....
1916-17	3,110 13 7	.....	.....	.....
1917-18	2,944 4 2	.....	.....	.....
1918-19	2,183 5 1	.....	.....	.....
1919-20	2,428 10 0	.....	.....	.....
1920-21	2,330 4 8	.....	.....	.....
1921-22	2,865 12 5	.....	.....	.....
1922-23	3,632 10 9	.....	.....	.....
1923-24	3,884 12 3	.....	.....	.....
1924-25	3,929 2 0	.....	.....	.....
Average	2,766 10 9	.....	.....	.....

APPENDIX X

Statement showing the number of Births and Deaths for the last 15 years in the Akrani Mahal of Taloda Taluka

Year	No. of Births	No. of Deaths	Remarks
1911	313	58	
1912	501	121	
1913	451	242	
1914	325	164	
1915	287	131	
1916	301	151	
1917	65	38	
1918	90	437	
1919	34	59	
1920	1	7	This obviously is incorrect.
1921	543	321	
1922	347	157	
1923	451	201	
1924	513	126	
1925	458	152	
Average	312	157	

APPENDIX Y

Statement showing the effect of the Original Settlement on the cultivable land in 67 villages of the Akrani Mahal in Taloda Taluka of the West Khandesh District

Serial No.	Name of Village	Area cultivated according to Forest Department in 1925-26	Land Revenue assessment collected at present at the rate of 4 annas per acre on column 3	Total cultivable area according to Survey Department	Assessment after settlement on column 5 taking 12 annas maximum rate for group No. I and 8 annas for group No. II per acre	Average rate per acre after settlement	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<i>Group No. I</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Rs. a.</i>	<i>A. g.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	Rainfall not excessive. All on the central table land.
1	Ambari	41	10 4	103 35	21 12 6	0 3 4	Flat, easy access, on Dhadgaon-Mandvi road, most of the cultivation near Chondwad.
2	Bhujgaon	174	43 8	342 1	77 12 0	0 3 8	Flat, easy access.
3	Bilbarpada (of Kamod Khurd)	51	12 12	201 4	43 5 6	0 3 5	Do.
4	Bugwada Budruk	64	16 0	71 35	16 14 6	0 3 9	Do.
5	Bugwada Khurd	164	41 0	308 29	81 6 6	0 3 0	Do.
6	Chondwad Budruk	116	29 0	338 14	66 2 0	0 3 2	Do.
7	Chondwada Khurd (shown as Mugwad in map).	75	18 12	97 8	22 15 0	0 3 9	Do.
8	Dhadgaon	78	19 8	353 34	94 7 6	0 4 3	Do. All roads radiate from here.
9	Dhanaja Budruk	613	153 4	1,087 13	267 1 0	0 3 11	Do. On the Dhadgaon-Bhusa road.
10	Dhavadpada (not shown in map)	0	1 8	67 9	16 14 0	0 4 0	Do. ½ mile from Dhadgaon. On Dhara-Mandvi road.
11	Harankhuri	130	32 8	611 4	124 7 0	0 3 3	Do.
12	Jamanwal	199	49 12	416 33	77 14 6	0 3 0	Do. On Dhadgaon-Domkbedi road.
13	Kharda	300	75 0	1,063 30	178 6 6	0 2 9	Do. On Dhadgaon-Kathi road and Kathi-Chandsell road which brings it nearer Taloda.
14	Kusumveri (Veri in map)	79	19 12	503 14	91 6 0	0 2 11	Do.
15	Mankhedi	292	73 0	496 36	105 11 6	0 3 5	Do. Along Dhadgaon-Taloda road, nearer Taloda.
16	Munda'vad	722	180 8	1,631 15	354 1 0	0 3 4	Do. Along Dhadgaon-Kathi road, nearer Taloda by a direct road.
17	Naodalvad	195	48 12	630 34	123 9 0	0 3 8	Do. On Dhadgaon-Domkbedi road.
18	Navegaon	54	13 8	66 30	18 10 6	0 4 5	Do. On Dhadgaon-Taloda road, nearer Taloda.
19	Palkha	108	49 8	246 25	73 8 0	0 3 9	Do. do. do.
20	Roshmal Budruk	820	205 0	1,782 15	449 1 6	0 4 0	Do.
21	Sumane	94	23 8	397 32	85 14 0	0 3 6	Do. Near Dhadgaon-Kathi road and has a short separate cut to Taloda.
22	Survani	554	138 8	1,211 5	260 12 0	0 3 4	Do. do. do.
23	Tembla	116	29 0	599 32	96 14 6	0 2 8	Fairly flat, on Dhadgaon-Kathi road and Kathi-Chandsell road which brings it nearer Taloda.
24	Umbrani Budruk	337	96 12	724 39	149 4 6	0 3 3	Flat, easy access.
25	Umbrani Khurd	293	50 12	388 4	75 11 0	0 3 1	Do.
26	Varphalia	116	29 0	295 21	71 9 8	0 3 11	Do.
26	Total, Group No. I ..	5,841	1,460 4	14,177 37	3,048 8 6	0 3 5	
	<i>Group No. II</i>						Crumpled or cut up into hillocks. Away from main roads. Rainfall excessive.
27	Ajpa	104	26 0	429 5	57 15 6	0 2 2	Ajpa, Amla, Pimpri (59) and Chhapri (33) form a strip of cut up land separated from Dhadgaon by a low range of hills which add about 6 miles to Taloda. Being along the foot of the Tusharni range rainfall is excessive and so coarse grains grow better.
28	Amla	51	12 12	200 18	24 10 6	0 2 0	

APPENDIX Y—contd.

Serial No.	Name of Village	Area cultivated according to Forest Department in 1925-26	Land Revenue assessment collected at present at the rate of 4 annas per acre on column 3	Total cultivated area according to Survey Department	Assessment after settlement on column 5 taking 12 annas maximum rate for group No. I and 8 annas for group No. II per acre	Average rate per acre after settlement	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Acres	Rs. a.	A. G.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
	<i>Group No. II—contd.</i>						
29.	Asli	516	129 0	1,045 33	137 10 0	0 2 1	Cut up in a deep valley. Cultivation difficult and along shoulders of mountains. A long way off from Chandsell Ghat. These would have claimed a separate lower group but have a direct route to Taloda about 15 miles away and rainfall though heavy never fails.
30	Asthamba	265	66 4	731 31	84 13 0	0 1 10	
31	Bhanoli	52	13 0	130 3	15 12 0	0 1 11	Bhanoli, Jaloli (30), Khadkia (45), Son Budruk and Khurd form a cut up tract to the north-west and below the central plateau. They have a few flat patches along the banks of the Khad nalla. Though along the Dhadgaon-Domkhedi road they are a long way from Taloda and Dhadgaon.
32	Borwan (not shown in map)	261	65 4	401 18	71 7 0	0 2 10	Near Dhanaja Khurd (37). Borwan, Dhanaja Khurd and Kharwad (47) form a hilly and cut up tract to the extreme east of the central plateau. They are away from the main road and also from Taloda.
33	Chhapri	164	41 0	507 9	67 6 0	0 1 10	See Ajpa No. 27.
34	Chipal	43	10 12	415 19	49 13 0	0 1 11	Chipal and Radikalam (60) form a tract cut up into small ravines just to the south of the central plateau, not on any road.
35	Chitar	34	8 8	82 22	11 9 8	0 2 3	Chitar and Kakarpati (No. 40) are along the Udai valley, very cut up, undulating nearer Taloda, but physical aspect and rain against a higher group.
36	Chulwad	150	37 8	798 15	100 0 8	0 2 0	Undulating with short dips, not on any road.
37	Dhanaja Khurd	108	27 0	188 34	37 7 4	0 2 8	See Borwan No. 32.
38	Hatdhui	169	42 4	209 31	35 3 0	0 2 2	Hatdhui and Mojra (51) are to the west below the central table land. Fields undulating or crumpled and with ravines. Not along any main road.
39	Jaloli	32	8 0	158 17	20 12 0	0 2 1	See Bhanoli No. 31.
40	Kakarpati	89	22 4	459 32	60 12 0	0 2 1	See Chitar No. 35.
41	Kalibel	243	60 12	630 27	72 12 0	0 1 10	Kalibel and Sisa (62) are among undulating hillocks and have cut up fields. None along any road.
42	Katri	877	219 4	2,219 6	270 7 0	0 1 11	Khuntamodi (48), Kundal (50) and Khandbara (46) form an undulating tract to the west cut off from any road; land not very cut up. Have a direct route to Taloda along the Kathi-Chandsell road.
43	Kela Budruk	150	38 8	474 33	60 2 0	0 2 0	Very cut up, not on main road, but nearer Taloda, along the Kakarpati road; very little land is cultivated as it is poor.
44	Kela Khurd	119	20 12	729 31	76 2 0	0 1 8	
45	Khadkia	298	74 3	723 22	101 9 6	0 2 3	See Bhanoli No. 31.
46	Khandbara	317	79 4	535 32	75 12 0	0 2 3	See Katri No. 42.
47	Kharwad	309	77 4	485 4	65 7 4	0 2 2	See Borwan No. 32.
48	Khuntamodi	370	92 8	1,293 30	168 14 6	0 2 2	See Katri No. 42.
49	Khushgavan	133	33 4	252 2	30 14 6	0 2 0	Khushgavan with Mundvani Budruk and Khurd Nos. 52 and 53 form an undulating and cut up tract to the south-west of the central plateau which begins to crumple here; nearer Taloda as being on Kathi-Chandsell road. Cultivation is difficult.
50	Kundal	380	95 0	807 7	133 4 0	0 2 6	See Katri No. 42.
51	Mojra	218	54 8	393 16	48 10 6	0 2 0	See Hatdhui No. 33.
52	Mundvani Budruk	220	55 0	628 25	81 12 8	0 2 1	See Khushgavan No. 49.
53	Mundvani Khurd	167	41 12	513 34	62 7 4	0 2 0	
54	Murukh Budruk	209	74 12	932 20	104 13 0	0 1 9	These two with Panbari (58) and Talai (65) are on a fairly flat plateau to the west but this table land is cut off from all roads and so though the tract is fairly well off it must come under the second group.
55	Murukh Khurd	232	58 0	727 15	93 5 0	0 2 0	
56	Padamund	140	35 0	576 11	71 13 6	0 2 0	Along a valley, the village being separated from all roads by a low range.
57	Padli	223	55 12	577 6	63 12 0	0 1 11	Padli and Ramsala (61) are undulating in roundish valley with hills on all sides except Chandsell. Rainfall heavy near Chandsell road.

APPENDIX Y—*concid.*

Serial No.	Name of Village	Area cultivated according to Forest Department in 1925-26	Land Revenue assessment collected at present at the rate of 4 annas per acre on column 3	Total cultivable area according to Survey Department	Assessment after settlement on column 5 taking 12 annas maximum rate for group No. I and 8 annas for group No. II per acre	Average rate per acre after settlement	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<i>Group No. II—concid.</i>	Acres	Rs. a.	A. g.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
58	Panbari	239	59 12	757 29	93 4 0	0 2 0	See Murukh No. 54.
59	Pimpri	111	27 12	223 11	29 13 6	0 2 1	See Ajpa No. 27.
60	Radikalam	128	32 0	720 24	90 11 8	0 2 0	See Chipal No. 34.
61	Ramsala	155	38 12	287 29	43 9 0	0 2 5	See Padli No. 57.
62	Sisa	259	64 12	1,254 1	148 0 6	0 1 11	See Kalibel No. 41.
63	Son Budruk	286	71 8	286 21	41 14 0	0 2 4	See Bhanoli No. 31.
64	Son Khurd	183	38 4	254 11	33 10 0	0 2 1	
65	Talal	315	78 12	700 17	96 9 0	0 2 2	See Murukh Nos. 54 and 55.
66	Varkhedl Budruk	305	76 4	923 12	124 14 0	0 2 2	To west, undulating; though on Kathi-Chandsehl road, a long way off from Chandsehl and Taloda.
67	Varkhedl Khurd	200	50 0	430 10	51 7 6	0 1 11	
41	Total of Group No. II	8,864	2,216 0	24,303 18	3,110 0 8	0 2 1	
67	Total for both Groups	14,705	3,676 4	38,481 16	6,158 9 2	....

T. T. KOTHAVALA,
Settlement Officer, Akrani MahaI,
West Khandesh District.

APPENDIX Z

Statement showing the number of Patients treated at the Dispensary at Dhadgaon in Akrani Mahal in West Khandesh

Principal ailments	Epidemics for the last 10 years	Annual attendance of patients		Average daily attendance	Remarks
		Year	No. of patients		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Skin-diseases. Malaria, diseases of digestive system and Eye-diseases.	*None since 1920, i.e., the year since the Dispensary was started.	1920	.. 40	11	* The Influenza epidemic prevailed in Akrani Mahal in 1918-1919.
		1921	.. 565		
		1922	.. 743		
		1923	.. 732		
		1924	.. 768		
		1925	.. 1,172		

Below report regarding settlement of 67 villages in Akrani Mahal received from T. T. Kothavala, Esquire, M.A., B.Sc., Settlement Officer, Akrani

No. S. R. V.—18

Dhulia, 22nd February 1927.

Forwarded with compliments to the Commissioner of Settlements.

Mr. Kothavala's proposals may be accepted. The assessment may seem light but under the conditions of the Akrani, a large increase in assessment is undesirable. The inhabitants are averse to exertion and prone to migrate. A heavy land revenue assessment would result in emigration to the adjoining Indian State territory. I therefore recommend acceptance of the rates proposed. If at any time Government consider the inhabitants are not paying their fair share of taxation more revenue can be raised by a slight increase in the price of liquor (a large increase would merely lead to illicit distillation).

2. Orders will be needed regarding trees. The usual reserved trees may be reserved and in addition all fruit trees may be reserved to Government, the occupants of occupied survey numbers being conceded the right to the usufruct of the trees subject to the condition that where third parties have any prescriptive rights to such trees by planting or tending, the usufruct shall belong to the third party. In occupied survey numbers, persons who have customary rights to the usufruct of particular fruit trees, should be conceded the usufruct during Government's pleasure. This will need an inquiry into trees as was done in Nawapur Taluka. Thereafter no rights should be conceded to trees planted in waste lands without permission.

3. I am not prepared to agree with Mr. Kothavala that ordinary Revenue Administration should be at once introduced in the Akrani. The land revenue and forest revenue do not justify complete staffs of two departments in the Mahal, and I am averse to putting the Akrani under Revenue administration until by the completion of the Dhadgaon road it is made more accessible. The land will be on New Tenure, complicated land questions are not likely to arise, and with a little training in Revenue accounts and the help of some experienced talatis I think the administration can be carried on by a Ranger Mahalkari. I must add, however, that the Divisional Forest Officer (Assistant Collector, Akrani) will have to familiarize himself with the Land Revenue Code, the Record of Rights and other Revenue matters and inspect the talatis' work thoroughly. But this should not be beyond his capacity.

4. Mr. Kothavala has written an interesting report on a very backward tract.

H. F. KNIGHT,
Collector of West Khandesh.

Below No. S. R. V.—18, dated 22nd February 1927, from the Collector of
West Khandesh
No. S. T. 624

Poona, 11th April 1927.

Transmitted with compliments and with concurrence in the recommendations made by Mr. Kothavala.

2. As to the matter in which Mr. Kothavala and the Collector differ, the administration by the Forest Department, I feel hardly justified in expressing any opinion because I am not at all acquainted with the interior conditions of this Mahal, but if I might argue from my own experience of Kanara and Surat, I am decidedly on the side of Mr. Kothavala. The Revenue Department is able to transfer officers, with experience gained elsewhere, and its superior officers have a general knowledge of revenue administration, and neither of these things can be predicated of the Forest Department. My experience is emphatically that their administration does not aim at the promotion of the same economical and social ends which the Revenue Department puts before itself. The question might be considerably complicated if the Forest Department administration meant a substantial economy; but so far as I can gather in this particular instance it is not a question of expenditure but simply of the instructions as to which Department should supervise the work of the village talati and so on. And if that be so I support the recommendations of Mr. Kothavala who has some knowledge of what he is recommending.

3. In this settlement we are most opportunely able to realise exactly the problem which faced those pioneers of our land revenue system, who had to frame the first settlement reports in and before 1840. They distinctly realised rental value as the proper basis. But when the assessment, small as it was, was sufficient generally speaking to absorb the whole rental value of the land with which they were dealing there remained no transactions of sale, lease, or mortgage from which the rental value could be deduced. Reluctantly therefore they turned to those other considerations which have been summed up as "ability to pay" or the general condition of the tract. But when a Government is taking 100 per cent. of the rental value there is only one criterion whether they are taking "too much" or not, and that is, whether the assessment drives land out of cultivation, and drives land-owners to flight and destitution. If it does not do that, then you are *not taking more* than the rental value. If what you take still appears to leave them with a surplus so that their general condition can be seen from general considerations to have improved, then you are taking rather less than the rental value, and as time goes on and your revenue demand shrinks to about 75 per cent. of the rental value then the phenomena of sales and rents will begin to emerge, and people will be found letting their land and selling their land. The vital point to remember is that when we speak of selling land we really are, to some extent, talking nonsense. The land cannot be picked up and carried away by anybody like a gold bangle. But what we sell is the "right to receive the surplus rental after the land revenue has been met." Sale values and annual rental values are exactly the same thing, just as when we speak of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Government paper being sold at $77\frac{1}{2}$, $77\frac{1}{2}$ is the capital or sale value, while $3\frac{1}{2}$ is the annual or rental value. The two things are at any given moment merely a different expression for the same identical thing: the right to receive Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ a year.

4. Here in the Akrani there do not seem to be any actual rents. We therefore have to go upon guess work, and be guided by what we know elsewhere as "general conditions." We must show that the average assessment we have hitherto been taking has not injured the people. But on the other hand, there are little or no signs of any rental value or sale value, mainly owing to want of population and want of competition for the land. This has been rendered impossible in a further degree by the fact that no person had a separate private ownership or control of a particular plot of land. Selling and letting were therefore *impossible*. Therefore we have to step forward in the dark, but not with our eyes shut. We know what rents are levied round about and we know the level of plough-assessment hitherto levied, and upon that we know that a certain general rate will not take more than the rental, small or big though it be.

The only point upon which I would differ from Mr. Kothavala is in respect of a settlement for 30 years. Government are well aware how

frequently I harp upon the same theme. Here we are settling for the first time a tract as to which we have practically no statistics and we know nothing. The people themselves are said to be incapable of computing figures beyond 20. There exists no reason or justification for proclaiming settlement for so long as 30 years. During that time there is every reason to hope that with the great boon of ownership which we are conferring and with a settled revenue system there will be a very rapid development of rental value, and we shall not be justified in pledging the State to refrain from taking any of that rental for longer than 20 years which is amply sufficient to satisfy the views of any school of economics.

5. This recognition of private property in land is a very important thing. We are now able for the first time, after survey and the framing of the land records, to bestow upon these people an ownership of the soil on the ordinary Land Revenue Code tenure. This will be granted also upon the non-transferable tenure. It will unfortunately have the effect of obscuring the growth of rental value when we particularly want to know whether it is growing. I would therefore strongly urge that Government should not impose the condition of restricted tenure on any land held by the superior classes, kunbis and traders, if there be any found now or hereafter in Akrani. There is plenty of land to be given out for cultivation, and it is much to be hoped that agriculturists from other parts will be drawn by degrees to the area by its low assessment and will contribute to the enhancement of amenities and prosperity of the tract.

6. Talking of amenities it is most important that the road leading to Dhadgaon should be pushed on and by degrees this tract should be opened up. It is my belief that every rupee spent on road-making in such a tract will produce ten-fold or even one hundred fold in enhanced land value and the prosperity of the people. We cannot even get up there to combat malaria, distribute quinine, or impart education, or anything else until there are better communications. If we open a road through which an omnibus service from Taloda could operate, I think it will very rapidly alter the whole face of the country for the better.

7. A sound land revenue policy will give the same results in the Akrani as it gave in the rest of the Presidency a century ago. In imposing the rates proposed by Mr. Kothavala we are admittedly grouping in the dark, but it is at once obvious that the rates are so low that vital injury can be done to no one, and in 20 years' time we shall be able to review the settlement with a great deal more confidence and in a much fuller light, and if we do not find that there is any ground for an increase no Settlement Officer would recommend and no Government would accept any increase, but it will be wrong to lay down a barrier against such a re-examination.

8. As to the Collector's recommendation as to trees, I would point out that there are two leading principles : (1) first, in occupied land, it is against all policy and natural rights to deprive the occupant of the trees he plants, or even supposing he does not plant them but just lets them grow, nevertheless he should be allowed to get them or we shall get no improvement in this respect on the land ; (2) the next principle is that it is most injurious that a third party, neither Government nor the holder of the land, should claim the trees. There is not a more pernicious source of litigation and quarrels and ill-feeling than this. Further in any unoccupied survey number if any party claims a right to the usufruct of particular trees, in my opinion he should be required either to take up the occupancy of those numbers or else surrender the alleged right. For every survey number containing trees it should be recorded who has the right and the officer doing this should be instructed to take great care that the right is not conceded to any other person except the occupant unless it is plainly admitted and cannot be expropriated or otherwise settled. I strongly deprecate any petty attempt to reserve a few unimportant trees to Government with the effect of provoking constant interference by the Forest Department and facilities for illicit extortion. This should be the third principle upon which this tree question should be settled : that no need for the interference of Forest Department officers should be left.

F. G. H. ANDERSON,
Commissioner of Settlements and
Director of Land Records.

Below No. S.T.—624 dated 11th April 1927 from the Commissioner of Settlements

No. L.N.D./W.—2/12

Poona, ^{23rd January} 1928.
_{2nd February}

Submitted to Government in the Revenue Department.

2. Mr. Kothavala has written a full and interesting report. His proposals may be accepted subject to the following remarks.

3. If the assessment proposed seems light it has to be remembered that of the total cultivable area, all of which will now have to pay assessment, only $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ is cultivated under existing conditions in any one year. However it is probable that the existing fallows are unnecessarily large, and that under the settlement the tendency will be to cultivate the same land more frequently than in the past.

4. The Settlement Commissioner supports Mr. Kothavala's recommendations that with the introduction of the settlement the administration of the Akrani should come under the Revenue Department. The Collector thinks this step should be deferred until communications are made easier. The Commissioner would accept the Collector's view with the reservation that it should be understood that the Assistant or Deputy Collector in charge of the Prant will spend a month in every touring season in the Akrani. In the beginning, especially, it is necessary that the control of higher officers of the Revenue Department should be exercised closely. The introduction of the settlement in this area means that allotment of land to individual khatedars must be made, and the right of occupancy to specific plots of lands recognized for the first time. This should be done by the Prant Officer himself, and it may be necessary to lend him the services of a Revenue Officer to work with the Ranger-Mahalkari in carrying out the work.

5. As regards trees the Commissioner is in agreement with Mr. Anderson. The fruit trees in the Akrani furnish no inconsiderable part of the food of the people in the hot weather. They regard them as their own property, and it would be unwise to disturb their possession. Government is not giving up any valuable right in surrendering these trees. As regards the trees which the Collector refers to as "usually reserved" there is nothing in Mr. Kothavala's report to indicate their nature or value. This question might be further examined. Unless a very strong case can be made out for reserving a considerable number of valuable trees to Government the Commissioner would prefer to see them all go with the occupancy. This will bring contentment to the occupants, and save them from interference by subordinates of the Forest Department.

6. As regards the period of guarantee the Settlement Commissioner remarks that the people of the Akrani are unable to compute figures beyond 20; he also contemplates a rapid development of rental values under the survey settlement. While the undersigned does not believe that there will be a rapid increase of rental values there will undoubtedly be some development after the road to Shahada has been completed, *i.e.*, within the next 10 years under the orders recently passed by Government. The circumstances of the settlement are unusual, and there is a good deal of force in Mr. Anderson's arguments to justify a shorter term than the usual one. On the other hand the assessment at stake is not a large one, and it is a question whether the entirely "unvocal" inhabitants of the Akrani should be denied the benefits which ryots in more advanced tracts are given as a matter of course. On the whole the Commissioner thinks the better course is to guarantee the settlement for 30 years.

G. W. HATCH,
Commissioner, C. D.

Survey Settlement.

Akrani Mahal, West Khandesh District.

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Resolution No. 9383.

Bombay Castle, 28th June 1928.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. L.N.D./W.—2/12 dated 2nd February 1928—Submitting, with his remarks, the papers specified below* containing proposals for the original settlement of the Akrani Mahal in the West Khandesh District :—

*Letter† from Mr. T. T. Kothavala, Settlement Officer, Akrani Mahal, West Khandesh District, No. S.R.V.—58 dated 19th January 1927.

Memorandum† from the Collector of West Khandesh No. S.R.V.—18 dated 22nd February 1927.

Memorandum† from the Commissioner of Settlements No. S.T.—624 dated 11th April 1927.

Letter† from the Collector of West Khandesh No. S.R.V.—18 dated March 1928—Forwarding certain petitions of objections to the Survey Settlement of the Akrani Mahal ; and making remarks.

Memorandum† from the Commissioner of Settlements No. S.T.—624 dated 3rd April 1928.

Memorandum† from the Commissioner, C. D., No. L.N.D./W.—2/12 dated 11th April 1928.

Government memorandum† No. 9383-B dated 8th May 1928 to the Chief Conservator of Forests.

Letter from the Chief Conservator of Forests No. 745 dated 23rd May 1928 :—

“ With reference to Government memorandum No. 9383-B dated 8th May 1928, I have the honour to say that my knowledge of Khandesh extends only to the eastern half of the district, and my having no personal acquaintance with the Akrani Mahal precludes my discussing its administration with authority.

“ 2. I submit herewith papers received from the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, among which I consider the well reasoned arguments of Mr. Divekar, a Forest Officer with much experience of the Akrani; deserve careful attention.

“ 3. The principal object, as a rule, of placing the revenue administration of remote and sparsely inhabited forest tracts in charge of forest officers (which has been done with marked success in other instances in the Presidency), is to secure greater facilities for protection and working, and consequent development. This main consideration for Forest as opposed to Revenue management is not advanced with any great force as matters stand in the Akrani at present, and clearly does not possess the force there that it does elsewhere.

“ 4. Apart from this point, however, it is very clear from perusal of correspondence and Government orders going back over twenty years that the great weight of informed opinion of experienced officers who have been directly associated with the Akrani, is in favour, on grounds quite apart from forest advantages to be secured, of its revenue administration being left in the hands of the Forest Department. This opinion persists to the present day among officers who really know the Akrani and its inhabitants, despite theoretical advantages claimed by Mr. Kothavala and the Settlement Commissioner for management by the Revenue Department.

“ 5. The Forest Department has, as made clear by Mr. Divekar's criticisms, no selfish ends to gain in advocating its own retention of control in the Akrani ; at the same time it does seem to me that, with a little assistance afforded by one or two subordinate revenue officials of experience, this Mahal can well be administered as hitherto, at any rate for several years to come.

“ 6. As regards rights to trees these should be conceded with the occupancy. No trees whatever should be reserved in this tract.”

† Not printed.

RESOLUTION.—These papers contain proposals for the original settlement of 67 surveyed villages of the Akrani Mahal in the West Khandesh District. At present the assessment is a flat rate of 4 annas per acre throughout the Mahal. Under the survey settlement the Settlement Officer proposes to divide the 67 villages into two groups comprising 26 and 41 villages respectively and to fix the maximum rate of group I at annas 12 and of group II at annas 8 per acre. These proposals, which result in the levy of average rates of 3 annas 5 pies and 2 annas 1 pie per acre in groups I and II respectively and are supported by the Collector, the Commissioner of Settlements and the Commissioner, are sanctioned. The settlement rates should be introduced during the current revenue year 1927-28, levied from the revenue year 1928-29 and guaranteed for a period of thirty years. The petitions of objections disclose no grounds which would lead Government to modify these orders.

2. As regards the Settlement Officer's proposal for the transfer of the management of the Akrani Mahal from the control of the Forest Department to that of the Revenue Department, Government concur with the Commissioner that the existing arrangements should continue. The Commissioner should, however, report whether in view of the introduction of the survey settlement any extra establishment will be necessary, and, if so, he should submit definite proposals.

3. As regards the question of the reservation of trees raised by the Collector, Government agree with the Chief Conservator that the rights to trees should be conceded with the occupancy and that no trees of any description should be reserved in this tract.

4. Government see no reason to accept the suggestion made by the Commissioner of Settlements in paragraph 5 of his review that the condition of restricted tenure should not be imposed on any land held by the superior classes. If the Collector considers exemption from this condition necessary in any case, it will be open to him to submit proposals to Government under section 73-A (2) of the Land Revenue Code.

5. Mr. Kothavala should be commended for his report.

By order of the Governor in Council,

G. K. JOSHI,

Under Secretary to Government.

Note.—For effect of the original settlement proposals in Akrani Mahal, please see Appendix Y of the Settlement Officer's Report.