To

His Gracious Excellency

The Viceroy of India,

NEW DELHI.

May it please Your Most Gracious Excellency,

Re:—Grossly unjust forfeiture in deliberately open violation of British guarantee, of un-alienated lands of the petitioners and hundreds of other poor helpless occupants of Kolhapur State proper under the advice of the present highly influential ministers, who have conveniently secured from H. H. a grant of un-alienated lands yielding each an annual income of Rs. 5,000 or so and one of whom on the strengh of that grant hastily and secretly secured orders for the possession of the petitioners' land in spite of the stay order of H. H. and even before their Revisional Application No. 8 of 1934 was finally rejected on 26-12-1936. This deliberate violation of British Guarantee in unjustly forfeiting to the State these un-alienated as well as alienated lands constitutes a vividly gross misrule at the hands of these ministers, although H. H. is a noble-minded, kind-hearted and virtuous Prince, and thus necessitates just and kind interference of and an urgent enquiry by the Government of India on the sublime principle of "*Trusteeship*".

This humble petition of the undersigned subjects of Kolhapur (State) S. M. C. most respectfully showeth that:—

1. The petitioners, Santoo Babajee Kirule, Sakharam Jayaram Mane, Hanama Pandu Shetage etc., in all 19 in number, are the loyal and peace-loving residents of Kasaba Kodoli a village in Panhala Taluka of the State of Kolhapur (S. M. C.).

2. Eleven of these petitioners have inherited from their forefathers and, therefore, have been long since in continuous and peaceful enjoyment of an un-alienated land named "Sindal Oat", Revision Survey No. 382, Acres 22, Gunthas 11, the assessment thereof being Rs. 108|—.

3. An *ex parte* Huzur Order No. 523 dated 7-4-1933 was issued in consequence of an unfair Circular Order No. 7 of 1925 described in para 15 below, directing the petitioners, to their amazement, to pay Rs. 1620/—i. e. fifteen times the assessment of the land in question and in case the amount was not paid the land would immediately be forfeited to the State.

4. The aggrieved petitioners, therefore, submitted to H. H. of Kolhapur their Revisional Application No. 8 of 1343 Fasali i. e. 1934 against the *ex parte* order described in para 3 above.

5. H. H. of Kolhapur was graciously pleased to issue immediately Revenue Order No. 658 of 9-4-1934 directing the Revenue Officers to stay the execution of the *ex parte* Huzur Order No. 523 of 7-4-1933 until the petitioners' Revisional Application No. 8 of 1343 i. e. 1934 was decided.

6. In the matter of the petitioners' Revisional Application No. 8 of 1343 the Chief Revenue Officer judiciously submitted his opinion that the petitioners had no opportunity whatever to prove their proprietary and other rights in the land in question, that, therefore, a formal enquiry in that matter should be made before the case be finally decided. This opinion was approved of by H. H. under Revenue Application Order No. 383 dated 24-10-1934

7. When formal inquiry was accordingly made in the matter, the Chief Revenue Offiicer submitted on 1-6-1935 his opinion, in virtue of the unfair Circular Order No. 7 of 1925, that in case the petitioners paid fifteen times the assessment of the land in question the same should be continued in their possession. This opinion was approved of by H. H. under another *ex parte* Revenue Order No. 383 dated 24-10-1934 without giving the petitioners a hearing in the matter. It is to be noted here that the petitioners' Revisional Application No. 8 of 1343 as shown in paras 4 and 5 above was finally rejected on, 26-12-1936 more than two years after this *ex parte* order was passed althouth H. H.'s stay order was still in force up to 26-12-1936. No notice of this *ex parte* order though legally necessary, was served upon the petitioners directing them to pay Rs. 1620/— as *Nazar*, fifteen times the assessment of their land in question. Consequently the *Nazar* was not paid and the land in question was thus unjustly forfeited to the State.

8. There are strong grounds to show clearly why this *ex parte* order for forfeiture was so hastily passed. It is a well-known fact that H. H. is greatly generous-minded by nature and ever guided by a few highly infiuential ministers. Taking an undue advantage of this situation Rao Bahadur Mhamulal Hakim, the Financial Secretary, Mr. D. M. Bhosale, the Chief Secretary and Mr. B. I. Powar the Private Secretary to H. H. have conveniently secured from H. H. a standing order under G.R. No. 608 of 21-3-1934 viz. Revenue Outward No. 364 dated 22-4-1934.

This order was published in January last in some newspapers in Poona. This order directs that H. H. is graciously pleased to make to each of the above Secretaries a grant of un-alienated lands yielding per annum an income of Rs. 5,000 from generation to generation. In order to give an immediate effect to this order the Prime Minister is thereby authorised to decide and issue orders accordingly as to what lands can be suitably allotted to each of them at present and in future and finally submit his report to H. H. So long as such suitable lands are not available Rs. 5,000 in cash are to be paid to each of the grantees from

the State Treasury and the appraised amount of income derived from such lands given in possession of each of these grantee is to be deducted from this cash payment every year. The very wording of this standing order clearly indicates that the lands to be thus allotted to each of the grantees are not to be handed over from the numerous lands that long since belonged to the State but those that are and can thus be suitably forfeited to the State. Consequently this order conveniently secured, has naturally roused the cupidity of the minions of the Palace and hence secret and hasty endeavours are often times made to obtain the actual possession of lands instead of receiving mere cash payment from the State Treasury.

9. Consequently the Chief Revenue Officer of Kolhapur issued an order—Panhala Outward No. 57 of 1345 Fasli, dated 26-8-1935, directing the Mamlatdar of Panhala Taluque to hand over the possession of Revenue Survey No. 382 in Kasaba Kodoli that was in possession of the Petitioners to Rao Bahadur Mhamulal Hakim, one of the grantees. Just within four days from the date of this order, a Panchnama was made on 30-8-1935 showing that the possession of the Petitioners' land Revision Survey No. 382 was delivered to Mr. S. R. Parulekar a clerk to and on behalf of Rao Bahadur M. S. Hakim, the Financial Minister to H. H. A certified copy of this Panchnama clearly states that the delivery of possession only of the land was made, leaving the standing crops therein to be reaped by the occupant Petitioners themselves.

10. On the date of the said Panchnama i.e. 30-8-1935 as various crops belonging to the occupant Petitioners were standing on the land and the rainy season had come to an end, the oocupants and their family were naturally, by night and day, always present on the land in question for agricultural labour and to watch the crops. If actual delivery of the possession of the land had been really made in the presence and to the knowledge of the occupants, the Petitioners would have immediately approached H. H. and submitted an application complaining against this unlawful and hasty procedure as also against this *ex parte* order for the delivery of their land. Since the stay order expressly given by H. H. was still in force and the Petitioners' Revisional Application No. 8 of 1934 was not yet heard and judicially decided till 26-12-1936.

11. *N. B.*—It is to be noted, therefore that the said Panchnama for the delivery of the land in question leaving rich crops therein was secretly made by fabricated evidence in behalf of Rao Bahadur Mhamulal Hakim the Financial Minister to H.H. whose personal influence over other officers of the State is well-known to all. It is further to be noted that this most unjust procedure of having such Panchnama for delivery was resorted to on 30-8-1935 one year and four months before the Petitioners' Revisional Application No. 8 of 1934 was rejected on 26-12-1936 and the stay order of H.H. ceased to be in force.

12. There is a Circular Order No. 1 of 1916 still in force in Kolhapur State proper which directs that when delivery of possession

of any immoveable property is to be made to any claimant under an order of any revenue officer clear ten days notice shall be issued to the occupants of the property. The object of enacting this circular is plainly this that the occupants of such property may have an opportunity to see for themselves if the order for delivery is not *ex parte* or improper and that if there be standing crops raised by them on the property they should be able to adopt further legal remedy.

N. B.—It is to be noted that no such notice was served on any of the occupants among the Petitioners with regard to the delivery of possession of the land in question.

13. The Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act was introduced in Kolhapur State on 15-11-1925 and is still in force there. Under this Act if any claimant seeks to have, on the strength of any grant or any revenue officer's order, not judicially made as under Mamladars' Court Act, delivery of possession of immoveable property he is bound to resort to a Civil Court to have his claim duly adjudicated and then obtained delivery of the same in execution of a civil decree.

14. *N. B.*—It is to be noted that the highly influential Financial Minister Rao Bahadur Mhamulal Hakim did not and could not resort to a civil remedy. Consequently this hasty procedure deliberately adopted unjustly to pounce upon the helpless occupants was grossly unjust and unlawful.

An Inequitable Order.

15. A Circular No. 7 of 1925 dated 30th November 1925 was published in the Kolhapur State Gazette dated 12th December 1925 Part I P. 148. It directs that the present occupants of lands named in old public accounts as (1) Wajghast, (2) Bandai, (3) Kadeem japtee and (4) Khand Makta have not availed themselves of the benefit offered by Circular Order No. 32 of 1863 in having their proprietary rights duly recognized by the State on payment of a *Nazarana* or proprietary value to Government. If such occupants now pay to Government a *Nazarana* fifteen times the present assessment of their land no enquiry will be made with regard to the proprietary rights in their land and the State will duly recognize their proprietary rights in the same. In case they fail to pay such *Nazarana* to the Government, their lands will be dealt with as the Government thinks fit, and even if after the commencement of an enquiry any such occupant pays the *Nazarana* as stated above to the Government before its conclusion, the State will duly recognize his proprietary rights in his land.

16. *N. B.*—It is to be noted that as a matter of fact there was no such order as No. 32 of 1863 ever issued by the British Administration to realize any amount as proprietary value from the occupants of lands of any form of upri or casual tenure. On the contrary, the British Administration wisely thought that moderate land revenue was equally conducive to the interests of the State and the well-being of its subjects and in order to increase the State revenue arable waste

land was given to be brought under tillage at a certain rent and with a view to give security to such occupants revenue officers were directed not to oust any such upri occupant of land so long as he paid the fixed rental to the State (Vide para 27 below).

17. After this order was notified many public servants vied with one another to the knowledge of revenue officers to be in charge of this duty of enquiry in Kolhapur State proper and only such occupants as had the tact, means and shrewdness of approaching such servants saved themselves from falling victims to this unlawful measure. The unfair order was issued in deliberate violation of British guarantee described below and consequently it could be enforced only in Kolhapur State proper. However, after thirteen years this order was annulled in June last on account of severe criticism in news papers.

British Guarantee.

18. When, fortunately for the subjects of the State of Kolhapur, British Administration took in its hands the reins of Kolhapur State in 1844 the chief varieties of individual or rayatwari tenure in this State as in the Presidency of Bombay were the following, viz :—

(a) Mirasi or hereditary under which so long as the holder paid his fixed rental he could not be ousted ;

(b) Upri or casual tenure under which at the end of one or two years the land might be given to a fresh holder ;

(c) Chal-khand, Makta-khand, Kaul, Istava, or such other tenures came under the variety (b) i. e. casual or upri.

Bombay Gazetteer Vol. 24, Kolhapur P. 250.

19. "The first change introduced by the Manager or State Karbhari appointed by Government in 1844 was to reduce the number of fiscal sub-divisions. The officers who, with the title of Mamlatdars, were placed in charge of these new groups were ordered to work, as far as possible, in accordance with the system in force in British Districts." Ibid P. 253.

20. "Ooprees may be called simply tenants at will, with no more right than the Government chose to give them, but Mirasdars had a certain proprietary right in their lands. Elphinstone describes the latter as "proprietors of their estates subject to the payment of a fixed land tax to Government ; their property is hereditary and saleable and they are never dispossessed while they pay tax, and even they have for a long period (at least thirty years) the right of reclaiming their estate on paying the dues of Government."

21. "Owing to the increase in the value of every description of property the question would have been a very important one if the matter had not been virtually set at rest by the operations of the Revenue Survey. For as the survey confers on all *Gatkoolee tenants*

(or Ooprees) a saleable interest in their holdings, of which they cannot be deprived so long as they pay the tax, all the tenants under the Survey have in effect the Miras tennure, " etc.

Nairne's Revenue Hand Book Part II Imperial Revenue Introduction, p. 102-103.

22. The Political Agent of Kolhapur issued an Order Revenue Outward No. 251 dated 7th July 1858 directing revenue officers not to oust from any land its occupant so long as he paid the fixed rental and not to entertain any application of a fresh holder proposing to pay higher rental than the actual occupant pay to the State. This order was in fact issued in the spirit of the Bombay Regulation 17 of 1827 then in force in the Presidency of Bombay.

N. B.—It is to be noted that this order of the Political Agent expressly laid down the first step of British guarantee that all forms of oopree or casual tenure even those mentioned in the unjust circular Order No. 7 of 1925 described in para above were directed to be considered as Mirasi or hereditary tenure although no Revenue Survey was till then introduced in the State of Kolhapur.

23. Revenue Survey.—The Bombay Act I of 1865 was introduced in this State in 1867-68 for the survey and settlement of lands and then the survey rates were introduced in 1871-72 under Circular Order No. 47 of 1871 and Order No. 259 dated 31-1-1872.

24. The very wording of the Preamble of this Bombay Act I of 1865 clearly explains the object and reason of introducing the Act in this State and of giving the guarantee to the occupants of all forms of Upri or casual tenure, as to those of Mirasi tenure :

25. "Whereas a moderate assessment of land revenue is equally conducive to the interests of Government and the well-being of its subjects ; and whereas it has been and is the desire of Government to equalize assessments, to ascertain and settle the obligations, and *to record the rights, interests and privileges of persons and classes owing and occupying land etc.* it is enacted as follows."

26. Section 4th of this Act I of 1865 authorized the British Administration to direct the extension of a survey with a view to the settlement of land revenue and *to the record and preservation of proprietary and other rights connected with the soil,*" etc.

27. Section 36 of the same Act expressly lays down a firm guarantee for the occupants of all forms of Oopri or causal tenure including those named in the unjust circular Order No. 7 of 1925 (Vide para 5 above) as for those of Mirasi or hereditary tenure in this State, thus :—"The occupants of a survey field or recognised share, or field or a number shall not be deprived of their right of occupancy in the said field or recognised share of a field by any revenue officer so long as they continue to pay the assessment due thereon. This right

of conditional occupancy is declared to be transferable property; and any person lawfully and authorisedly in occupation of any land *shall* be continued in his own occupancy without question."

28. Section 51 of the same Act directs that this Act (I of 1865) shall be read and taken as a part of Regulation 17 of 1827.

29. This 51st Section means that this 17th Regulation of 1827 was introduced in the State of Kolhapur in the same year as the Bombay Act I of 1865 was introduced i. e. in 1867-68 (Vide para 23 above.

30. This 17th Regulation of 1827 was enacted and introduced with the object and for reason shown in its Preamble " with a view to the protection of the rights of the State and individual ", etc.

31. When a Revenue Survey Settlement shall have been introduced in a district under the provisions of Section 28 of Bombay Act I of 1865, a proclamation in the annexed form (Appendix A) shall be published in such district, and the guarantee given shall be notified in the Government Gazettee (G. R. No. 2319 June 13th 1871). By this Revenue Survey the revenue of the state was increased by Rs. 13 lakhs.

32. Accordingly under section 28 of the Bombay Act I of 1865 this guarantee was duly notified in the State of Kolhapur when Revenue Survey was introduced in this State during the British Administration and also when Revision Survey was introduced in this State by the Ruler of the State more than thirty years ago as he was invested with all the powers of Government on 2nd April 1894. This is the second step of British guarantee.

N. B.— By this guarantee even the occupants of all forms of Oopri or casual tenure including those coming under the category of the unjust Circular Order No. 7 of 1925 were assured from 1858 down to the introduction of the Revision Survey that their property in their lands they have been enjoying is hereditary, saleable, transferable, etc. and that they shall never be deprived by any revenue officer of this property so long as they pay the assessment due.....to the State.

33. A still more memorable and important Resolution (No. 331 dated 23rd January 1882) of the Political Department to the Government of Bombay was duly notified in the Bombay Gazettee sufficiently bearing in mind that the Prince of Kolhapur then existing would have one day to be invested with all the powers of Government of the State. The 11th paragraph of this memorable Resolution affirming a further notable guarantee deserves to be quoted to some extent in this humble petition. It is as following :—

34. "It is clear, therefore, that from 1844 to 1862 the settlement of alienation must have been regarded as final and the terms in which the Raja was readmitted to power *leave no room for supposing that he was considered to be at liberty to annul any of the acts of the British Administration which preceded.* The article of agreement quoted

above (paragraph 10th) is *equally conclusive as to the authority of the British Administration* during the minorities since the death of Raja Shivaji and as *to the power of a future Maharaja to set aside any formal acts of that Administration.* If the *future Princes* should think fit *to assume* any Inam *left in tact to holder* after enquiry by the British administrators, the *holder would of course complain to Government* and *the Maharaja is bound to comply* with the advice of the Political Agent which would necessarily be that the Inam should not be interfered with."

This is the Third step of the British guarantee.

35. N. B.—Although this important Resolution appears to be notified for the guarantee of alienated or Inam lands, etc. in the State of Kolhapur, yet it has expressly given a similar guarantee to the occupants of un-alienated lands also, since the Ruler of the State is by no means "*at liberty to annul any of the Acts of the British Administration*" and since "the article of agreement *is conclusive as to his power to set aside any formal acts of that Administration.*" This Resolution thus authorises the occupants of un-alienated lands aggrieved by deliberate violation of British guarantee to complain to Government as such holders of un-alienated lands. This notable guarantee being equally conducive to the interests of the State and the loyalty and prosperity etc. of its subjects was very forsightedly given to bring honourable credit to and virtually on behalf of the Rulers invested with all the powers of the State.

Violation of British Guarantee.

36. With a view to fill unduly the State Treasury and to have thereby, sumptuous favours, at times, shown to themselves at the liberal hands of H. H. of Kolhapur, his present highly influential ministers advised him, thirteen years back, to issue, in violation of the British guarantee, the inequitable and unlawful Circular Order No. 7 of 1925 described in para 15 above. State Ministers as well as states people are, unlike the people in British India, ever aware of the fact that they have greater confidence and stronger faith in British Administration and British justice than in their own. In order to lend, on that ground, sanctity to this unfair measure and to mislead the people of the State,—even H. H. of Kolhapur—these ministers, very conveniently made a mention therein of a bogus, imaginary and non-existent Circular Order No. 32 of 1863 as an authority of the benign British Administration during the minorities, with the sole object of making the people believe that even the British Administration did exact some amount as value from the State occupants of land to recognize and confer upon them the proprietary rights in their soil. These ministers were quite cognisant of the fact that this unjust measure could, very successfully, be enforced only in Kolhapur State proper since the representatives of British Government would by no means be ready and willing to violate their own guarantee and accord their sanction to its introduction in the nine Treaty Feudatories of the State of Kolhapur. This evidently crooked policy adopted in

enforcing this most unjust measure only in Kolhapur State proper, is in itself an eloquent proof of the fact that the British Administration, during the minorities never thought of realizing any amount as value from the occupants of land in the State in order to recognize, confer or guarantee their proprietary rights in their soil. The State subjects within these nine Treaty Feudatories were, indeed, quite fortunate, mutely thanking the British Administration, since they were spared by their guarantee from being the victims of this monstrous measure. An open, impartial and searching enquiry into this deliberate violation of the British guarantee by these ministers, will clearly disclose: (a) how many acres of un-alienated land of poor and helpless occupants in Kolhapur State proper have, during the last thirteen years, been unjustly forfeited under this unfair measure to the State, (b) how many acres of un-alienated land, premises and plots have been granted as gifts to these ministers and other minions of the Palace, as also (c) how many lakhs of rupees, unjustly exacted from the occupants that have ignorantly and meekly submitted to this monstrous measure have glutted the State Treasury. The Government is expected to include in this enquiry what Inams settled and confirmed by the British Administration have been unjustly resumed and forfeited to the State in violation of British guarantee as shown in para 34 above.

37. There was, no doubt, one Circular Order No. 32 of 1865 issued, indeed, by the British Administration to realize a paltry amount with a view to the commutation of the names of surviving holders of land in the public account in consonance with the custom that was in vogue in this State as in others. This Order was issued in order to have the names of existing holders of land duly entered in village books and to facilitate the realization of assessment of lands. But this circular, being found later on to be ineffective. unnecessary and rather oppressive was finally annulled by the British Administration under circular order No. 68 of 27-1-1879.

38. The Petitioners' Revision Application No. 8 of 1934 was finally rejected on 26-12-1936 and their land was consequently forfeited to the State on that date. (Vide para 7 above). More than sixteen months previously to this forfeiture *ex parte* order was issued by the Chief Revenue Officer of Kolhapur on 26-8-1935 to hand over the possession of the land to Rao Bahadur M. Hakim, the Financial Ministor to H. H. and just within four days from this *ex parate* order a Panchanama was made on 30-8-1935 as fabricated evidence for the partial delivery of the land in question (Vide para, 11 above). Rao Bahadur Mhamulal Hakim is also in charge of the Police Department of the Kolhapur State. As the petitioners could not part with the possession of the land in question, law was set in motion to take revenge upon them, criminal actions were taken by the Police Department against fourteen of the Petitioners, five criminal proceedings were instituted against them, and although there was no just and lawful ground, charges were framed against them on the strength of that Panchanama and finally these fourteen accused were, in all

these five cases, convicted and sentenced to fine and rigorous imprisonment. The nature of the transaction and the charges framed against them was virtually the same in all these proceedings as shown below.—

Criminal Court	Case No.	Charges.	Date of punishment.
2nd Cl. Magst. Panhala.			
„ „	5 of 1937	I. P. C. 147, 447	19-6-1937
„ „	7 of 1937	„ 147, 447, 504	26-7-1937
„ „	14 of 1937	„ 447, 426, 147	4-10-1937
„ „	8 of 1937	„ „ „ „	17-8-1937
1st Cl. Magst. Panhala.	42 of 1936	„ 379	4-10-1937

This statement will suffice clearly to show to what extent of harassment, expense, and mortification these fourteen Petitioners were mercilessly put to even though their only land in question was unjustly usurped and lost to them for ever with no hope of restitution.

39. Against these convictions the helpless Petitioners, with the vain hope of obtaining justice, lodged criminal appeals in proper courts which were all, as pre-destined, finally rejected.

40. With regard to the last criminal case No. 42 of 1936 under Sec. 379 I. P. C. a Revision Application No. 12 of 1938 was lodged in the High court of Kolhapur which finally met the same fate as in the Appellate court of the Session which confirmed the sentence of the original court. Consequently the aggrieved Petitioners have presented in January 1939 a Petition to the Supreme Court of Kolhapur which is still under consideration.

41. The Petitioners, therefore, humbly beg to summarise :—

(a) That the "Sindal Out" land in question belonged to eleven of the Petitioners who had full proprietary rights therein ;

(b) That the occupants of the land and their forefathers had, since long before 1857 been in continuous and peaceful possession thereof;

(c) That, even granting, as State Officials allege, that the land in question was of Upri or casual tenure as "Makta Khand" in 1863

in the State account, the British Administration, by introducing in 1871 the Bombay Act I of 1865 and Survey Settlement thereunder in the Kolhapur State have fully guaranteed, in behalf of the then minor Prince of Kolhapur and his successors, that the occupants of Upri lands shall not be deprived of their right of occupancy in such lands so long as they continue to pay the assessment due thereon. (Vide para. 27 above.)

(d) That, as the Petitioners have never made any default in paying the assessment due on the land in question, the same could not be forfeited to the State under Sections 56 and 153 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code ;

(e) That the land in question being a vast piece of very fertile soil it was sought to be first delivered over as a gift and then forfeited to the State under the unfair Circular Order No. 7 of 1925 (Vide para. 15 above.)

(f) That this Circular No. 7 of 1925 was issued in flagrant violation of the excellent guarantee given by the British Administration, during the minority for the security of property, well-being of the peasantry and increase of the State Revenue.

(g) That by the *ex parte* order for forfeiture of the land without giving the Petitioners a notice lawfully necessary and an opportunity to pay as *Nazarana* Rs. 1,620, fifteen times the assessment of the land in question they have lost the same for ever with no hope of restitution ;

(h) That fourteen of the Petitioners were unjustly convicted and sentenced to fine and rigorous imprisonment and four were sentenced to fine only, in five criminal proceedings and were thus unnecessarily put to harrassment, much expense and mortification.

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42. The humble petitioners, as State subjects, have quite naturally a strong faith in British justice, in British administration and still more in British guarantee which is more potent than the pledges given to the Indian Princes. Consequently they presented some applications to the Resident at Kolhapur with the sanguine hope that he would be pleased either to give the Durbar of Kolhapur a salutary advice to give their legitimate grievances prompt and active consideration and not to allow the petitioners to suffer undue exactions on behalf of the State in violation of the British guarantee on the strength of the unfair Circular No. 7 of 1925 or to move the Paramount Power to intervene in this aggressive and important matter in order to remedy their grievances and bring them justice. These applications were, only, formally forwarded to the Durbar of Kolhapur for disposal and they were all rejected. In the case of their final application the Resident was, however, pleased to give the Petitioners peremptory order to submit thenceforth, their applications directly to the Durbar. The order was tantamount to ordering the Petitioners to submit themselves to the very influential ministers of the Durbar against whom these grievances really lay. A typed copy of this peremptory order accompanies this Petition.

The humble Petitioners therefore, most respectfully pray that your Gracious Excellency may be pleased to consider carefully their genuine grievances and advice His Highness the Maharaja of Kolhapur to remedy them and bring them justice.

All correspondence in this connection may kindly be addressed to Mr. S. R. Kulkarni, M.A., LL.B., Pleader, P. O. Uran Islampur, Dist. Satara, Bombay Presidency. For this favour Petitioners will ever pray.

We beg to remain,

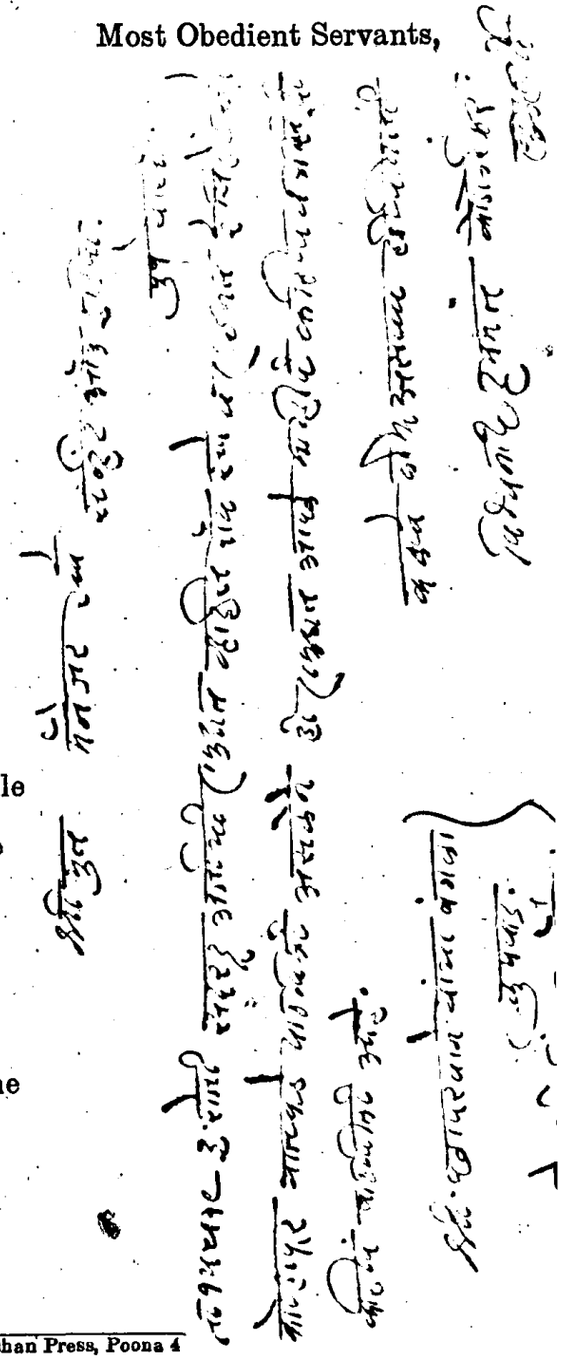
Your Most Gracious Excellency's

Most Obedient Servants,

Post Kodoli
Kolhapur State (S.M.C.)
12th May 1939.

Names of the petitioners :—

1. Santu Babaji Kirule
2. Sakharam Jayaram Mane
3. Hanama Pandu Shetge
4. Shankar Sakharam Mane
5. Bhau Babaji Kirule
6. Sakharam Hari Kirule
7. Dnanu Jayaram Mane
8. Tatoba Shidu Mane
9. Maruti Tatoba Mane
10. Dhondi Hanama Shetge
11. Chimabai wife of Santu Kirule
12. Yesabai wife of Bhau Kirule
13. G. L. Kulkarni Shirasekar
14. Bhau Jayaram Mane
15. Yeshwant Bala Mane
16. Kasabi wife of Krishna Mane
17. Pandu Dnanu Mane
18. Anna Sakharam Tele
19. V. H. Kodolikar, Kulkarni



Aryabhushan Press, Poona 4