Appendix - B

RESOLUTION OF THE MERCHANTS' PANCHAYAT, 11
DECEMBER 1753 (Sources: Factory Records, Kasimbazar, Vol. 12, Annex. to Consists, 21 October 1754)

We the country merchants who transact business for the English at Cassimbazar are come to a common agreement on the following inotives; First, we have received dadney for Silk, Silk piece-goods and Gurrahs for the year 1753; also we have accounts with the Company for the year 1752. The gentlemen here arc very hard on us in examining and prising our goods for the Company, as well as in their resolution to charge us the penalty in our accounts for the deficiency in our contracts with the said Company for the year 1752. These motives obliging us to come to an agreement: we do hereby agree never to suffer ourselves to be injured in our accounts with the said year 1752 nor in the examining or prizing of our goods. If the Gentlemen do settle accounts with us and do examine and prize our goods to our satisfaction, in such case we shall submit to them. But if in anger they get any of us imprisoned, we do agree to confine ourselves with the person so imprisoned. And if they happen to turn any of us out of their business, we all do promise to quit their business likewise. If any one amongst us is dismissed the Company's business and the rest continue in it, we do hereby promise to be accountable to any claim which the person dismissed may lay on us, and if any man amongst us do for his own interest come to an agreement with the gentlemen, we leave such man to the punishment of Heaven. We further agree to bring no more goods into the factory from this very day; and if any one among us do violate the agreement, such a one doth hereby Submit to pay a penalty, as well to the rest of us merchants as to the country Government. If the gentlemen do settle account with us to our satisfaction, whoever among us appears debtor to the Company, he is to be answerable for his debt without involving others in the payment of it. In the like manner if any one appears a creditor, hs is to demand and receive his due from the Company without calling others to make good the same. But if the gentlemen be inclined to settle accounts to our prejudice,

Source: S. Cchaudhury, From Prosperity to Decline 18th Century Bengal, Delhi, 1995.