SANAD granted to the CHIEF of NILGIRI defining his status, powers and position with reference to the BRITISH GOVERNMENT, 1894.

WHEREAS the status and position with reference to the British Government of the Tributary Mahals of Nilgiri in Orissa has hitherto been undefined, and doubts have from time to time arisen with regard thereto, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council is pleased to grant to you, Raja Shyamchandra Murdraj Huree Chandan, the following Sanad, with a view to assuring you that the British Government will continue, as long as you remain loyal to Crown and abide by the conditions of the sanad, and of your other engagements with the British Government, to maintain you in the position and privileges which you have heretofore enjoyed or which are now conferred upon you:

SANAD

I. You Raja Shyam Chandra Murdraj Huree Chandan, son of Raja Krishna Chandra Murdraj Huree Chandan, are hereby formally recognised as the Feudatory Chief of the Nilgiri State, and you are permitted, as heretofore, to generally administer the territory of the said Nilgiri State, subject to the conditions hereinafter prescribed. In like manner your heirs and successors shall become entitled
to your privileges, and liable to your obligations; provided that no succession shall be valid until it has been recognised by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council.

II. You shall continue to pay the tribute or peshkus of Rupees Three thousand and Nine hundred, annas seven and pies eight per annum, which you and your predecessors have heretofore paid.

III. You shall try in your Courts all Criminal cases occurring in your territory, except (i) those in which Europeans are concerned, and (ii) heinous offences, such as murder, homicide, daksiti, robbery, and torture. You shall refer the cases excepted above for disposal to the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals or to such of his Assistants as he may indicate. Sentences passed by you on criminal offenders shall be regulated by the instructions issued from time to time for your guidance by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, and shall not exceed (unless His Honour is pleased to entrust you with more extensive powers, in which case you shall be entitled to exercise such further powers in the manner, to the extent and subject to the conditions, if any, which His Honour may prescribe) in the case of imprisonment, a term of two years, in the case of fines, a sum of one thousand rupees, and in the case of whipping, thirty stripes. All orders passed by you in criminal cases shall
be subject to revision by the Superintendent, to whom
you shall send the records of any case for which he
may call.

IV. You shall deliver up any offender from
British or other territory, who may take refuge in
your State. You shall aid British officers who may
pursue criminals into your territory, and, in the
event of offenders from your own State taking refuge
in British or other territory, you shall make a
representation on the matter to the authorities concerned.

V. You shall administer justice fairly, and
impartially to all alike.

VI. You shall recognise and maintain the rights
of all your people, and you shall on no account oppress
them or suffer them to be in any way oppressed.

VII. You shall levy no transit duties on grain,*
merchandise or any article of commerce passing through
your State.

VIII. You shall consult the Superintendent of the
Tributary Mahals in all important matters of administration,
and comply with his wishes. The settlement and collection
of the land revenue, the imposition of taxes, the
administration of justice, arrangements connected with
excise, salt and opium, the concession of mining, forest
and other rights, disputes arising out of any such
concession, and disputes in which other States are concerned, shall be regarded as specially important matters, and in respect to them you shall at all times conform to such advice as the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals may give you.

IX. The right to catch elephants in your State is granted to you as a personal concession and as a matter of favour, but this concession is liable to withdrawal whenever it may seem desirable either on account of abuse or for other reasons, and it will not necessarily be granted to your successor.

X. All questions as to boundaries between your State and British territory will be dealt with by the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals or such other officer as His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal may appoint either generally or specially, in that behalf, with two assessors, one to be appointed by yourself and the other by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, unless in any such case you should prefer that the question should be decided by such Superintendent, or other officer alone, in which case the question shall be referred for his decision accordingly.

Simla (Sd) ELGIN
The 27th October, 1894. Viceroy and Governor General of India.