CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION
Pujas are conducted by the priests. Donations are given to the temple\(^1\). The emergence of the festival is the main cause for the emergence of an administrative system. Administration of Tiruvaludivisvarar temple in Perunkulam was under the control of Mahasabha. Mahasabha includes the member of Sathur vethimangalam.

The power of Mahasabha was transferred to the British East India company. In later days company gave the administrative power to the sthalathar. Administration of this temple was taken over by the Government only in the twentieth century. Mahasabhas were formed to look after the proper conduct of worship in the temples. Sathur vethimangalam were situated on the banks of river from sangam period, the ancient Tamil kings donated the land to the educated brahmins without tax such lands and their settlements were called Sathur vethimangalam. Mahasabha directed the religious affairs and arranged for the conduct of daily Pujas and Festivals\(^2\).


From the inscriptive evidence it is known that the Tiruvaludisvarar temple was administrated by the Mahasabhas of Perunkulam alias Uttamapandya nallur. An inscription found on the North West and South wall of central Shrine records a grant of land to the Tiruvaludisvarar temple at Perunkulam for worship and services.³

In the early Pandya period Tiruvaludisvarar Temple was administered by Satta Perumakkal, Aganaligaiyar, Patiyar and Panchacharyas. The Aganaligaiyar of the temple received the grant and agree to supply the ghee required for burning the lamp.⁴

In the Chola period Tiruvaludisvarar Temple was administered by the Commander of Vettikudi (padai Thalivar) belong to the temple took charge of the gift and agree to supply the ghee for maintaining the lamp⁵.

Another inscription found on the west wall of Arthamandapa infront of the central shrine in the Tiruvaludisvarar temple dated the fourteenth reignal year 1209 AD of Kulasekaradeva records the gift of

³ ARE., 1932-33, No.226.
⁴ SII XIV., No. 74, P.48.
⁵ SII XIV., No.14, P.131.
Veli of land by the Mahasabhas of Maramangalam to the temple to provide for offering to the image of Thripuvana Sundara.⁶

WORKS OF MAHASABHA

Mahasabhas were under the control of the members of Chathurvedi Mangalams. These members look after the administration of the Tiruvaludisvarar temple. First thirtha and temple honour are given only to the members of the Mahasabhas. Mahasabha looks after the administration of the Tiruvaludisvarar temple and administration of Perunkulam alais Tiruvaludi Valanadu⁷.

The works of the Mahasabhas are of various kinds. They are religious administrative and Quasi religious. Mahasabhas look after the proper conduct of religious ceremonies and other procedures. Mahasabhas acted as treasury. Many gifts were given to the temple. The lands were got under the control of Mahasabhas. They look after the spiritual ceremonies conducted on festival days.⁸

⁶ ARE., 1932-33, No.230.
⁷ ARE 1932-33, No.224.
Mahasabhas received the land from individual as Devathana for Tiruvaludisvarar temple. Mahasabhas, sold the land to individual and received the Nivantham from them. Mahasabhas gave the land to individual on lease or Karanmai and received the rent from tenant.9

The land of Siva temples are called as Thiruvidaiyattam.10 The border stones of Siva temple lands were called as Thirusulakal.11 But the Mahasabhas of Perunkulam handed over its power to the East India Company in the 19th Century.12

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE BRITISH

The British East India Company began to take greater interest in the affairs of religious institutions through the court of Directors.13 They established a new system of revenue administration by which Government assumed executive and Judicial responsibilities and consolidated its power increasing responsibilities led to the framing of the

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9 ARE, 1938-33 No.242.
Madras Regulation Act of 1817. It was the first act enacted by the company administration in religious and charitable endowments.\textsuperscript{14}

This act gave real power to the Board of revenue to the collectors of the District and trustees of temples. Administration was carried on by the board of the trustees or sthalasthers as before.\textsuperscript{15}

Collectors were responsible for the appropriation of the endowments and supervision of the records maintained in the temple. The District Sherisddars and Thasildars are placed under the revenue collector. Jilla Board of revenue was also constituted. The temples in the Madras Presidency came under the control of Jilla Board of revenue.\textsuperscript{16}

The Board of revenue enjoyed over all supreme voice in all matters. This act also sanctioned money to renovate the buildings of the temples which are in a dilapidated condition.\textsuperscript{17}

Another act was passed in 1833 which replaced the Madras regulation Act VII of 1817 by which the company with draw from

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid P.125.
\textsuperscript{15} Op.Cit, P.125.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid. P.25.
administration of the Hindu religious institutions. Small temples were handed over to Pujaries and the larger temples to the Karnam and Pujaries.¹⁸

In 1841 the court of Directors of the East India company decided to sever all connections with the temples. Their main object was to leave the management of these institution to the committee of the locality. This committee consisted of able men in the field of administration.¹⁹

The religious Endowment Act XX was passed in 1873. This act also had the same provisions like that of 1841 towards religious institutions.²⁰ This act provided for a committee and life membership. It also provided fund for expenditure and maintenance of the temple also.

Some more acts were passed by the British Government through which some changes were introduced during the years of 1874, 1876, 1884 and 1886.²¹

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ADMINISTRATION UNDER JUSTICE PARTY

The British East India company neglected the administration of religious institutions. This led to the misuse of powers by the Brahmins. So the non brahmins protested against this action. In 1919 the government of India act of 1919 was passed. It was introduced Dyarchy in the field of administration, \(^{22}\) elections were also held. In this election the congress party, did not take part. So the Justice party won this election. This divided the administrative power into two divisions. Temple administration, fell in the transferred subjects. So it came under the administration of the justice party.

They are interested in regulating the Hindu Religious Endowment and Charitable institutions funds in 1921 the first Hindu Religious Endowment Act was passed during the Panagal Ministry. \(^{23}\) In the temple administration abuses were there. It put restriction on wastage of money, rice and pageants. This act had some defects.

A committee was appointed to study the short comings of the Act of 1921. It studied the condition and prepared a bill, it was circulated to the people for public opinion in 1922. Justice Ministry headed by Raja of


Panagal passed the bill in 1923. But the Viceory did not give his assent to this bill. So this bill again introduced in the next year. In 1925 this bill was passed with some amendments. After that it received the consent of the Viceroy.

According to this act, a central endowment board of Jurisdiction over the temples of Madras province was formed. This act had the provision for the formation of District committees also. This committee was formed by both elected and nominated members. They had the power to control and supervise the administration of the temple properties. Trustees of the temples are brought under the control of District Temple committee, Muthulakshmi, vice president of Madras council passed the twelfth amendment of Hindu religious Endowment on December 1928. This amendment bill was passed on February 1929 without any opposition. Necessary steps were taken for the control of the temples in the presidency.

In 1947 India got its independence which was a turning point in the administration of the temples also.
TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE

The act XXI of 1951 was passed. It was a landmark in the history of the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment. This act abolished the board type of Management of the temple. These Boards were replaced by the Department of Hindu Religious and charitable endowments. In 1957 another act was passed which replaced the act of 1951. This act introduced some change and consolidated the function of law and order on the subjects.

The Department of Hindu Religious and charitable endowment was created with a commissioner as the head of the department. Commissioner was assisted by a deputy commissioner in the district level. Executive officers assist the deputy commissioner in his work. These posts are created in accordance with the act of 1951. The act of 1959 gave special power to the commissioner and Deputy commissioner. They had the power to call for the accounts and inspect them.

The act of 1959 empowered any office of his department to enter into the religious institution including the Garbhagraha, only for the

purpose of inspection. In the field of temple administration the power of
the court was restricted in the same year another act was also passed. The
Madras state Hindu Religious and charitable endowment Act XXII of
1959 was passed. It removed certain defects of the Act of 1951.\textsuperscript{27}

The establishment and maintenance of provident fund system to the
Executive officers of the religious institution was provided by this act.
This act removed the discrimination in the distribution of prasadam\textsuperscript{28}
Trustees were appointed for three years to five years.

The Tamilnadu Act XXII of 1959 was amended by the Act XIX of
1968. It continued to be enforced in the state during the year 1970 – 71.
Special officers were appointed to look after the lands and they took
charge on 28\textsuperscript{th} March 1970, while they joined duty in August 1970. They
have completed the collection of particulars are taking to the temple lands
from village revenue accounts for all the villages in Tirunelveli District
also.\textsuperscript{29}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{27} ibid, PP. 232. 300-323.
\end{flushleft}
Tiruvaludisvarar temple administration was taken over by the executive officer appointed by the Government.\textsuperscript{30} It has a committee consisting of five members to help him in administration.

**RENOVATION**

Tiruvaludisvarar temple is one of the largest temples in Thoothukudi district. This temple has not been properly maintained for a long time, on 01.07.1974 the renovation works were carried out.

Temples are renovated in accordance with the Agamas. The agamas also deal with the repairs of the temple building with great care.\textsuperscript{31} Renovation works have been started in 1974 supervised by a committee. A renovation committee was formed with fourteen members on the basis of an order issued by the deputy commissioner of Hindu Religious Endowment Board Tirunelveli.\textsuperscript{32}

In 1974 Kudamuluku has been done with the charity of the people, Government aid and Sengol Madam of Perunkulam. As per the records of the temple under the supervision of Mr. S. Ramasubramaniya pillai the


\textsuperscript{31} R.K. Das., op.cit., p.74

\textsuperscript{32} P.V. Jagadesa Ayyer., op.cit., p.13.
chairman of renovation committee, renovation was conducted in the Garbhagaha, Vimana, Eastern Gopura, Gomathi Ammai Shrine and Theppakulam.

They renovated eastern entrance and fixed Square in the roof floor of Garbhagaha, Amman Shrine and Madapalli. Before renovation work was started in the Garbhagaha palayam was conducted and the image was drawn on a wooden piece. They are renovating the main deity Tiruvaludisvarar. This mixture is made from the herbals of different kinds.

PROPERTY BELONGS TO THIS TEMPLE

It is a Siva temple of considerable size and antiquity several inscriptions are there. Tiruvaludisvarar temple is one of the largest temples in Thoothukudi District.33

The temple also has huge properties of its own. These properties are in the name of the deity. But the control is in the hands of Government Properties belonging to this temple are of many divisions, lands and ornaments.

LAND

Tiruvaludisvarar temple has (26) twenty six acres and (35) thirty five cents. These lands were donated to the temple. Lands belonging to this institution was divided into various divisions. Particulars of land belonging to the institutions. Lands under Pannai Cultivation to the institution, service inam land, lease hold lands, endowment, cases on Agricultural land. Agricultural land lying waste and urban lands belonging to the institution. Urban lands are around rest cases. vacant urban lands, cases of alienation of temple lands, cases of main inam in which order of the settlement officers abolition are against the interest of the temple. Kattalai lands, temple porambokku and list of trees have on registers.

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<td>Kattalangulam</td>
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<td>17.12 cent</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Paddy field)</td>
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<td>(Dry lands)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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35 Property Register from E.O.Office, Perungulam.