CHAPTER IV

SORAPUR AND ITS POLITICAL ROLE IN THE DECCAN
Until the year 1858, Sorapur was the capital of a small Beydur State ruled by a Raja, who was a feudal chieftain of the Nizam.

It was noticed that the revolt of 1858 in "Sorapur" was claimed as a part of the freedom struggle both in Andhra as well as in Karnataka. Fortunately, this account is based on original records which are available in the National Archives of India. Further widely scattered data prompted me to deal with the subject exhaustively. As a result to this, the reading of Meadows Taylor's works became imperative. Sorapur has been always spelt as Shorapore in English records and even in the Gulbarga district gazetteer published as late as 1966.

**Introduction or brief history of Sorapur upto 1800:**

The principality of "Sorapur" was situated in the south-west of the former Hyderabad State between the delta of the Bhima and Krishna rivers and beyond admeasuring approximately 4000 square miles.¹
The origin of Sorapur can be traced to the issue of a Sanad by Ali Adil Shah II of Bijapur to the founder of the Beydurs, Pam Naik Bahiri in 1665 A.D.² It is this Sanad which mentions a large district, forts, parganas and fortified places and above all this major portion of its population consisted of Bedar community the Rajah himself being a Bedar.³ Also he was authorized to collect about 10% of the total revenue from the specified villages, towns and cities scattered in the present day districts of Bijapur, Sholapur, Gulbarga, Raichur and Mahabubnagar.⁴

The early history of the Beydurs is shrouded in obscurity. Captail Meadows Taylor believed that Pam Naik's ancestors migrated from Ratnagiri in the old Mysore State,⁵ where as the traditional belief is that they migrated from Kampli in Bellary district to Anegundi and Kanakgiri and finally to Kakkera. Their footing at the Kakkera formed the part of the Inam, secured by Gaddi Paid Naik.⁶

The Beydur principality drew the attention of the Bahamanis as well as the Vijayanagara rulers. Taylor was inclined to believe that the
Beydurs were more loyal to the Vijayanagar empire. One thing is evident that Pam Naik became quite powerful so as to attract the attention of the Deccan rulers. The Bahamanis resisted the imperial Mughals possibly with the help of such local fighting communities. These Bedars were considered to be the bravest soldiery of 'Southern India'. They were stout, strong, hard hunters which proved more than a match for Mughal forces.

When Bijapur was annexed by Aurangzeb in 1686, Pam Naik found it difficult to resist the Mughal forces and surrendered the Sagar fort and in return acquired Mansab of 5,000. He, however, died in 1688. His nephew whom he adopted, Pid Naik (the first) threw off Mughal authority. However, the Mughals could not pay much attention towards Pid Naik as they were bogged down with a deadly warfare with the Marathas. In course of time, Pid Naik shifted his seat to "Sorapur" which continued to be the seat of power till the last. Here, Aurangzeb conciliated with him by not only confirming the Adil Shahi grants but by granting jagirs without paying any tribute and 7000 mansabs and 5000 horse.
It is believed that the Mughals under Aurangzeb provided pomp and grandeur in the Deccan. But their rule was short lived and the gap left by them was not filled either by the Peshwas or by the Nizam of Hyderabad. Pid Naik died in 1726 after a period of 31 years. With the transfer of power into the hands of the Peshwas and the Nizam in the Deccan, the Beydur principality of Sorapur retained its independence by maintaining a nominal allegiance through a tribute to both. For all practical purposes, thus the Beydurs continued to rule almost independently, paying tribute only when compelled, but without antagonising the Peshwas and the Nizam. In fact they were kept in good moods and each one felt that Sorapur was within its sphere of influence. Thus a stage came when these Beydurs rendered no service to their overlords, but continued to collect the rusum (tax) from the specified areas as envisaged in the Sanads granted by the rulers of Bidar.

There was as yet another power which rose to eminence under Hyder Ali and Tipoo Sultan in the middle of the eighteenth century. The battle of Udgir fought between the Nizam and the Peshwas considerably
reduced the power of the former. As a result Madhavrao Peshwa established better relations with the Beydurs. On the occasion of Venkatappa Naik's coronation (1774) the Peshwas collected a handsome Nazrana. During the period of Venkatappa Naik, their territories were invaded by Parashurambhau Patwardhan to punish him for siding the Maratha revolters and exacted a huge penalty from him. The Nizam has maintained friendly relations with the Beydurs. Also the Nizam abolished Haqrusum in some parts of his territories in lieu of the payment of tribute by the Raja.

Taylor considers Venkatappa Naik as the greatest of Sorapur Rajas. The Sorapur State then was very flourishing, the revenue being 20 to 30 lakhs a year. There were two battalions of disciplined sepoys under European Commanders and a part of artillery along with Beydur Militia, 12,000 in number and a considerable body of cavalry which made Raja Enkatappa Naik truly formidable. During this period Tippoo and Hyder tried to be friendly with the Beydurs. Though, Tippoo overran the neighbouring districts he made no attempt to attack Sorapur.
Among the Rajas, Enkatappa Naik proved to be a great patron of Hindu learning. According to the custom of his tribe he proved to be a good soldier, and also a skilful administrator. It is he who brought his principality out of the difficulties, which was really admirable. But the fortunes of the state passed away with him. It was during his regime his diwan known as Ishappa Verappa Nishti carried complete revenue and land settlement.\textsuperscript{18}

The above brief history of the principality of Sorapur would show that "Sorapur Rajas were no ordinary zamindars although they paid tribute to Peshwas and Nizam, the amount was more than double by the rusums (tax) which they collected in their suzerain domains. Though the payment to the Peshwas was regular, but Nizam's was quite often skipped. These Rajas were not required nor forced to do military service. They could resume jagirs within the principality at will. Even they could raise and use troops entirely for their own purpose. Their connection with either of the suzerains was direct and also independent.\textsuperscript{19} The Rajas who were originally a military class, acquired all the nobility after having risen to rank and ruled well. They took good measures for defence of their principality and
maintenance of law and order but created an administrative structure, by appointing officials for smooth collection.

It is said that Bedar Rajas of Sorapur kept before them the model of Vijayanagar and seem to have encouraged Brahmins with a view to secure social acceptance and higher position. Thus under their patronage 'Sorapur' really became a seat of Brahmanical learning. They themselves had good and intimate family relations with Brahmins, Muslims, Dakhinis, etc.

**Taylor's political role in the Deccan:**

In the year 1841 Meadows Taylor was appointed as political agent at Sorapur. In fact this appointment was warranted due to certain serious developments which cropped up after the death of Krishnappa Naik. It seems Taylor's predecessor Captain Gresley found it difficult to handle the situation who desired the use of force to restore order in the state when that was not immediately provided, he relinquished his position. It is against this background Meadows Taylor took up the job.
It may be briefly stated that article 17 of the treaty of 1800 between British Government and the Nizam made provision for the British interference either in favour of the Sorapur or the Nizam specially whenever the former did not pay the stipulated tribute to the latter. The original tribute had been very low, but the Nizam's Government had increased it and on the succession of the late Raja, who had very recently died, a nazaraana or succession fee of 15 lakhs was demanded by the Nizam's minister which was to be cleared only by instalments. Actually these demands led to many complications in which the British Government had always been obliged, under the treaty obligation. Money was borrowed from bankers under signature of British officer to pay instalments of tribute and succession fees, which this impoverished state could not meet and this resulted into a dispute between Sorapur state and bankers, the bankers and the Nizam Government which altogether presented a very complicated and eminently disagreeable state of affairs.

The officer in charge concluded a proposed settlement and submitted an exhaustive report on the country and its revenues and resources. When
Raja Krishnappa Naik died suddenly, his elder Rani Ishwaramma assumed the administration as regent to her son, a boy of 7 years old. It was at once a challenge and a test for Taylor, when he was asked to take charge of Sorapur. Taylor found that the Rani of Shorapur had some Emperor's grants and had all secret papers. He had to tackle the situation very cautiously. The Rani was cunning, slippery and treacherous. Col. Timkons is right when he remarks, "If Taylor settles this matter without troops he will be clevered fellow than I take him for".\textsuperscript{21} and Taylor was successful in his attempt by saying Rani either she should submit or retire. At this juncture it was Taylor who arrived at Sorapur as no one was willing to take charge. "Will you take up this matter Taylor? asked General Fraser of me. "If you succeed, it will be a good thing for you, and you are at any rate independent. I cannot spare any other officer just now on whom I could rely."\textsuperscript{22}

Taylor was religiously sincere in realizing the Rani's debt to Nizam Government. This was necessitated because of the stamp of the British authority where by not only an amount of Rupees 15 lakhs but also an yearly additional tribute of
56 thousands was arranged to be affected. But unfortunately the condition of the Sorapur state was deteriorating beyond repairs. Naturally this called for more caution and sagacity on the part of Taylor.

Taylor arrived at Sorapur with an armed escort on December 10th, 1842. It was at Gobbur, Taylor met Capt. Gresley and took charge of all relevant papers and Gresley briefed him exaggerating the defiance of Rani.23 As soon as Taylor took the charge of the Sorapur he had to deal with the Rani as well as Pid Naik. At any rate Taylor saw no danger of immediate confrontation between Rani and Pid Naik.24 Taylor saw Rani preparing herself a very big statement. She gave a verbal account of it and thereafter conceded to Pid Naik's diwani. Taylor knew her cleverness and assured that Pid Naik would not confiscate her jagirs or extort her alleged wealth. The Rani appeared sincere in all. But Taylor did not believe that a woman of her energy, cunning and also her self-determination would easily give up. Even Pid Naik was surprised at her surrender. Meanwhile Rani gave Rs. 30,000/- for current expenses and agreed to serve him signed by Sibandhi chief and
Tilinga Pida's of wand rūg. But the Resident returned the Rani's letter and further instructed Taylor that a minor Raja could not be vested with full power. Once Taylor got clearance from the Resident on his proposed plans, he acted boldly and firmly to curb the powers of the Rani and even ventured to punish her in case there was any resistance from her. It was rumoured that the Rani and her paramour, Chanbasappa, were secretly recruiting Arabs and Rohillas at Hyderabad. Taylor dealt with the Rani cautiously. He was surprised when the Rani readily handed over the copy of the agreement that the Beydurs had signed to serve her. However, the Resident had cautioned Taylor to restrain himself and not to provoke the Rani's Beydur loyalties. But instructions were left with the Diwan that the Rani could be removed if the normal peace of the region was disturbed. Under these circumstances, Pid Naik was well settled and at his instance Taylor started checking the treasury accounts. Taylor threatened the Rani by pointing out a letter from the Hyderabad Government that her jagir will be confiscated if she interfered with the
administration and did not make the payment. Also the British soldiers under Brig. Tomkins was ordered to Sorapur to reduce the Rani to submission. Therefore, the Rani had no way out and could not put forth anymore terms. She immediately paid Rs. 75,000 by mortgaging her ornaments and on refusal to wait for seven days for the balance amount she sold her jewels and paid Rs. 25,000/- to Taylor. Naturally she was accountable for it. This was over and above the arrears. Finally she had agreed to pay Rs. one and a half lakhs by raising a loan from her assets. She was also prevented from getting a loan from the banks. At this stage she agreed to sell her personnel jewellery and pay Rs. one lakh each, but on the condition that Chanbasappa should be released. "Helpless as I am it is necessary to preserve your favour ... To provide for such a sum (viz. 1 lakh) as this is hard on my life and on my property and nothing will remain to me; therefore please to take care that there may be no further demand on me and thus endure a good name." Inspite of Rani's helpless waiting, Taylor did not relent in his firmness. He further demanded Rs. 70,000/- from her account towards extra Sibandi (trained arms) which she is said to have engaged during 1250-51 Pasli. He ordered
his army to occupy her jagir villages on the pretext that she was avoiding the examination of accounts. "I send the estimate not as a correct account, but to serve as a guide to the present state of demand against the Rani", he confessed."

Taylor's demands did not seem to have been based on the actual examination of accounts. When the accounts were actually sent to the Resident, he is said to have confessed that they have not been checked with daftar accounts and the credit side of it was not that unfair.

Sonagir Gosavi was deputed by the Nizam's Government to Sorapur and Taylor was authorised to use his services in whatever manner he deemed fit. It was the Resident who gave a clean chit to Taylor to banish the Rani if warranted. After clearing the debts the Rani also became bold and demanded the scrutiny of the treasury accounts. Later on Taylor also started wondering if the Rani was responsible for illegal exactions and other financial bunglings. Some of which took place while her husband was alive. However, it was the Resident who asserted that the Rani should account for whatever Revenue that was collected either before or after her husband's death, political settlements apart, it was
unjustified to harass her for the payment of the assumed funds. Therefore, it was just proper to have her jagir villages restored. On the whole it seemed as though the British authorities were interested in restoring order in financial matters, the raking up of past irregularities more in order to regulate the present and future accounts. Taylor is said to have reported that the Rani had finally realised that it was futile to oppose the British officers who might reduce her power further. The examination of accounts was taken up by Taylor and found that during Fasli 1250-51 no error nor any over charge was committed. The Rani during the life time of her husband had not touched even a paisa from the treasury for personal use. She was in no way responsible for the state's expenditure while her husband was alive. But later she was accountable for Rs. 10,577.23 and the Rani readily signed on agreement to pay the amount. Taylor restored jagirs fetching an amount of Rs. 18,000 to the Rani instead of the area of the value of Rs. 27,093. It is doubtful how far Taylor was responsible in checking the activities of the Rani. On the other hand he seem to have been directed by the Resident from time to time to crush
The nazrana from the Mamlatdars were curbed. Thus the Resident and Taylor promoted the interests of Pid Naik. The governments appreciation of Taylor's work was mainly based on the reports sent by the Resident who complimented Taylor's tact, firmness and judgement. In turn the Resident believed in the letters despatched. Finally the Board of Directors were happy with the treatment of Taylor towards the Rani.  

Taylor's other measures:

Taylor was further directed to scrutinise the accounts of revenue collections. He found an extra lakh of rupees was arbitrarily collected from the ryots for which the accounts were recklessly maintained. On further examination the actual figure was Rs. 76,000. Taylor, after this exercise realised that the Rani was not directly responsible for the mismanagement of collections. Further Chanbasappa was just one among the officials to have carried out the work. Though the government asked Taylor to refund the amount to the ryots, the latter explained that extortions of this type were not uncommon in other regions. Taylor succeeded in clearing the
Initially he wanted the Rani to pay for it for which she was agreeable. However, Pid Naik paid it from the current receipts of the treasury. Taylor also succeeded in reducing the Samsthan army. This idea of Taylor's set aside all fears of revolt by the Rani backed by the personal troops.

Nizam's payments:

Taylor's loyalty toward the British government and his special sympathy for the people of Sorapur are above the board. When the question of payment to the Nizam came up, he questioned the authority of that farmer's claims of 5 lakhs of rupees as arrears from Sorapur. He convinced the Resident that the Sorapur principality had no capacity to pay more than 2 lakh rupees. 1 lakh of rupees taken from the Ranee and one lakh from Pid Naik. He further convinced the Resident that the total income of the state was just Rs. 1,30,000 and the state having many more commitments.

Taylor also brought to the notice of the Nizam as to how 400 villages spread over the Nizam's territories on which the R usurum had for
Sorapur, a privileged granted earlier, was withdrawn as per Gresley settlement. Taylor succeeded in getting some more areas added to Sorapur.45

Taylor, strictly speaking, had no locus standi in the Sorapur administration. He was expected to assist Pid Naik who as Diwan was shaping very well. Pid Naik established a good rapport between Taylor and the Beydurs. Taylor also helped the state in preparing revenue estimates, the share of Rani in it and its proper payment. It is obvious that Pin Naik strictly adhered to Taylor's advice. In fact at Pid Naik's request Taylor assumed the responsibilities of administration, a situation for which Taylor was eagerly waiting. In this connection Taylor is said to have pleaded for the British officer to be permanently stationed to look after the Sorapur administration during the Raja's minority. While Pid Naik initially at least was well intentioned and favourably disposed towards Taylor, he could not get a firm grip on the administration. This was due to his own weak and vacillating qualities. At the same time among his Beydur friends and relatives there was none who was trustworthy competent to assist him. On the other hand they were always
engaged in petty Jealousies and mutual district. At the same time Pid Naik did not have any formal training in administration and also accounts.

Taylor seem to have taken full advantage of his close acquaintance with the British officers. During his frequent visits to Hyderabad, he made it a point to brief the Resident and sometimes misguided him. In this way he managed to get a letter issued to Sorapur authorities to provide a superior position to Taylor. The same letter directed the Diwan to adhere to Taylor's advice and guidance. In this way it amounted to Pid Naik's seeking the approval of Taylor in all financial matters. The Diwan was not expected to increase the establishment nor any extra levy without Taylors ratification. He was also required to place before Taylor all the accounts and other allied financial transactions.

Inspite of these safeguards Pid Naik did not learn much nor he gave up his past habits, he treated the treasury as his personal property; spent the amount as he liked. Taylor was trying to see that the receipts and expenditure should be equal. This matter reached the government of India but they did not directly interfere but issued instructions with the hope that it "would be glad to hear that these had been attended to."46
The subsequent period of Taylor's stay in Sorapur was one of anxiety, disappointment and occasional disillusionment. Sometimes stray incidents caused a good deal of anxiety to Taylor. On one occasion a quarrel between chaprasi and a Beydur in the market place resulted into the loss of a limb of the chaprasi. Taylor wanted Pid Naik to punish the offender by putting him in a lock up when Pid Naik did this the Beydur troops started gathering and it was feared that it might lead to violence. However, the situation was calmed down due to Pid Naik's interference. But Pid Naik's personal activities went on unchecked inspite of Taylor's complains to the Resident. Pid Naik's advisors mislead him and he thought that he could manage with the treasury as long as the bare requirements of the Government are met with. In this process the legitimate payment to Rani Ishwaramma was not done. The treasury had hardly a few hundred rupees in it. Inspite of it, Taylor wanted to give a fair trial to the Diwan by not pressing for his approval of each item of expenditure. Thus Pid Naik had a free hand in treasury matters and more so
during Taylor's absence. The Resident did not have any first hand information on Pid Naik's capabilities. He relied upon Taylor for everything.49

In the coming year of 1844 Taylor - Pid Naik's relations deteriorated further. The Diwan's activities were very much controlled by his friends of low taste who indulged in all sorts of conspiracies. The Diwan indulged into the activities of wining and dining and had a large zanana. He forgot to comply with routine formalities. On Ugadi day he did not bother to take the young Raja to Taylor. Taylor's oral and written directives to maintain regular cutcherry, curtailment of wasteful expenditure mostly for private purposes etc. were overlooked by Pid Naik. At one time Taylor thought that a strong letter from Resident might set him right. On the other hand the Resident asked Taylor to suggest another name for the post of Diwan. But it was not possible to find anybody. However, a more practicable solution was provided whereby all the powers of the Diwan were taken away. Taylor reported the finances of 1253 Fasli which came roughly to 2 1/2 lakhs of rupees.
But surprisingly Pid Naik had already spent 1 1/2 lakhs of rupees leaving very little for other items of expenditure. Thus it is regretable that active help from experienced British Officer like Taylor did not improve the financial position. With all this neither Taylor nor the Resident could do anything as the supreme government did not act on their complaints. There seem to be a temporary improvement in Pid Naik. The finances were stabilised. Even the Resident was considerate towards Pid Naik and exempted him from the payment of the amount he had spent on personal matters.

During the year 1845, Taylor seem to have lost the goodwill of his superiors. In fact the government of India had decided to shift him from Sorapur by sending somebody equally capable and experienced but totally unconnected with the Sorapur affairs during the minority of young Raja. The cause of this decision was unknown and it was rumoured that the payment of 5 lakh rupees to the Nizam as agreed by Capt. Sresley was possibly the main reason. It is well known that Taylor mediated in this matter and got the amount reduced to just 2 lakhs. Before any amicable settlement could be reached on the question of the payment
of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Nizam, Raja Venkatappa died. Pid Naik was eager to please all authorities in order to grab the Diwani by agreeing to pay such a huge amount. The authorities forcibly extorted money from the villagers, sometimes, using violence on them. Finally Taylor succeeded in this matter.53

The whole issue was rather vicious because the supreme government has also consented to Gresley's settlement. The Nizam was not bound by any moral or realistic considerations. It stuck to its guns. The Nizam's claims were not unreasonable in view of the prevailing practice of accepting nazarana on every important occasion. This practice was something with which the British government was not accustomed. In fact in the Nizam's territories no appointment was made without nazarana. At least the Gresley's settlement has put a stop to it. At this stage it was not possible to find a solution to this problem but continuation of a huge payment would amount to causing injustice to Sorapur.54 Taylor's opinion that the Nizam need not be paid any arrears seem to be appreciable. However, Millet one of the members of the board worked out the details
and suggested that the Nizam could be paid only Rs. 80 thousand as arrears. 55

George Bullock, a member of the Governor General's Council felt that a separate inquiry be conducted by the successor of Taylor implying that Taylor should be replaced. 56

Fortunately certain changes in the administrative set up led to the dropping of the entire issue as if the stormy situation was over. Even in the midst of critical conditions Taylor seized the opportunity of Pid Naik's illness to use his full powers in the day to day affairs. He went to the extent of using his official seal. It is very unfortunate that Taylor became too officious in his dealings even when Pid Naik was on his death bed. He repeated his complaints about the wasteful expenditure incurred by Pid Naik and even went to the extent of seeking directives whether this amount should be recovered from him. This quality of Meadows Taylor gives rise to certain speculations. It is not quite sure whether he was warranted by his official responsibilities or was over weighed by personal ambition of power and more power. 57

In the circumstances cited above, Taylor assumed full responsibility of the Sorapur
principality. Taylor continued to enjoy this position for about eight years. It is during this period he realised that Pid Naik had left very little personal property. His wasteful expenditure was not directed towards his personal property. Taylor started looking after the personal jagirs of Pid Naik. It is revealing to note that Pid Naik was simple and became Diwan due to circumstances. Though Rani was all the while suspicious that Pid Naik might pass on the gadii to his son instead of the young Raja, they were completely belied. He had special regard for the young prince. Unfortunately his personal life was full of vices. Taylor spared a few good words about Pid Naik in his autobiography as well as private letters but he seems to be too cautious to say anything good about him in his official despatches.

With the death of Pid Naik Taylor became quite strong in his position. However, he had a lurking feeling that Rani Ishwaramma might obstruct his activities. But in fairness to Ishwaramma, he seems to have given up her plans of creating any problems to Taylor. Her fears towards Pid Naik were genuine for the feared that the former might take away her jagirs and might
as well put his son on the gaddi by setting aside the claims of the young Raja. She was more than happy when her jagirs were restored by Taylor. She also expressed her gratitude to him by sending basket full of tasty mangoes.60 She was immensely happy when the formal installation ceremony of her son took place soon after this.61

During the period when Taylor was at the helm of affairs, he found that the Rani, instead of amassing wealth, was hard pressed for money. She could not raise money to pay off the pledged jewels. Taylor supported her case when she applied for public grants to clear her debts.62 In fact, the Resident advanced the loan on the understanding that the same could be paid when the Sorapur had adequate funds. Between the Rani and Pid Naik in a later situation, Taylor was inclined to trust the former.63

Taylor, however, grew suspicious about the Ranis activities particularly after Pid Naik's death. He was distressed specially on her immoral and cheap licentious life. Taylor entertained the idea of banishing the Rani to a distant place where from it should be impossible for her to dabble with
the official matters of Sorapur. However, he took up this matter with the Resident only in 1847.

It may be confessed that Taylor seemed to have developed a tendency to eliminate even the semblance of interference in the routine administration. Thus he sought for lame excuses. His professed interest in the young Raja's studies was also misconstrued as interference. She was alleged to have lavishly spent her jagir money. She took over her sister's jagir and did not show accounts to Taylor. He proposed to take over the jagirs and also have the jewels kept in the treasury. Finally Taylor succeeded in sending the Rani to her father's place in Ratnagiri. He took over her jagirs by paying a nominal allowance. While approving these changes, the government of India directed that the Rani should be shown proper courtesy and payment of enhanced allowances.

Anticipating reaction and reprisal at the time of the departure of the banished lady, Taylor personally paid a visit to Hyderabad and impressed upon the Resident for the deployment of a strong British contingent. The Resident agreed for this, but cautioned Taylor not to precipitate matters. As ill-luck would have
would have it that Taylor fell ill and his return to Sorapur was delayed which led to wild speculations.\textsuperscript{70} It is only after realising serious consequences, the Resident volunteered to conduct the process of banishment personally.\textsuperscript{71}

Taylor took all precautions by arming the fort. A handful of Beydurs tried to oppose him by approaching towards the fort. But they also surrendered at the instance of Taylor.\textsuperscript{72} They were subsequently tried. Thus before the arrival of the Resident to Sorapur, the Rani made up her mind to proceed to Ratnagiri. It will be seen that she changed her mind and proceeded to Bangalore instead of Ratnagiri because of the fear of her father's annoyance.\textsuperscript{73} At Bangalore she found it difficult to manage with a meagre allowance of Rs. 500/- per month and consequently got into a huge debt.\textsuperscript{74}

The whole affair seemed to have been somewhat shady and reflected adversely on Taylor's personality. The Commission of enquiry instituted to go into the matter of the Beydurs who protested against the action of British in sending the Rani away from Sorapur, it seems the Daftardar whom Taylor had deputed for recording their statements and preparing case papers had forged the records. This was later on confessed by Taylor. For this Taylor was subjected to a severe
resentment by the Government of India. The Government directed that the Rani should be restored to Sorapur with the usual honour. The persons responsible for forging the documents were tried and punished.

After her return to Sorapur the problems assumed new dimensions. They were such as the restoration of her jagirs and the payment of her debts which she incurred so far. Taylor and Resident Fraser decided among themselves, that the Rani should be paid a cash allowance of Rs. One thousand per month towards her jagirs and her debts to be charged to the Sorapur Treasury. Moreover, they did not consider her request to be away from Sorapur nor to go on a pilgrimage to Tirupathi as they were afraid that she might incur more debts in that way. They thought it proper to keep her under Taylor's direct conversion. This stands was approved by the Government. Before they (Taylor) acted on the question of setting her debts she died on May 27th, 1853. The above synoptic picture of the political affairs as prevailed in Sorapur shows as mix to how Taylor rose to the occasion and boldly faced the situation. This was done under the circumstances in which no other officer was ever willing to take the charge of Sorapur.
REFERENCES:


4. Taylor, P.M. Story of My Life, p. 224, Ranganigh, is at present in Madakaike taluka of Anantapur district. It appears that since Sorapur chiefs contracted.
   Matrimonial alliances of that place Taylor guested it to be their original home.

6. FPC, 9 March 1844, Nos. 89-94.


11. Nawab Framura Jung Bahadur in his Shorapur, pp. 52-56.


15. SPD (Selection From Peshwa Daftar), Vol. 25, Nos. 10-495.


18. PCF, 9 March 1844 No. 90. According to Kspatral his name was Verappa and not Ishappa.
19. FPC 19 April, 1841 No.103.


23. Taylor Frazers, 10 Dec.1842, FPC, 1 Feb.1843, Nos. 51-7, details of path with Gresley is also narrated in Story (p.145).


27. FPC, 1 Feb. 1843, No.59.

28. FPC, 1 Feb.1843, No.60.

29. " 1 March 1843, Nos. 72-73.


32. " 22 Feb. 1843, No.68.

33. " 15 March 1843, No.68.

34. " 12 April 1843, No.426.


37. PLFC, 6 Nov. 1844.

38. " 8 March 1843, No.114.


41. PLFC, 19 April 1843, No. 89.
42. Ibid., No. 88.
43. FPC, 8 March 1843, No. 110.
44. " 12 April 1843, No. 65.
49. Fraser to Taylor, 1 Feb. 1844.
50. FPC 23 May 1845, Nos. 119-24.
51. Ibid., Nos. 140-41.
52. Ibid., No. 151.
53. PLFC, 15 November 1843, 27 March & 6 November 1844.
55. Ibid., No. 148.
56. Ibid., No. 150.
57. FPC, 18 July 1845, Nos. 172-76.
58. " 29 Aug. 1849, Nos. 82-83.
59. " " No. 86.
60. Letter to Reeve, No. 20.
62. FPC, 22 August 1846, Nos. 97.
64. Letter to Reeve, No. 43.

65. FPC, 31 December 1847, No. 634, Paras 28-36.

66. " " 624.

67. Ibid., No. 644.

68. FPC 7 April 1848, No. 246.

69. " " No. 247.


71. FPC, 7 April 1848, Nos. 254-6.


73. " 265.

74. " 3 November 1849, Nos. 98-100.

75. " 8 December 1849, No. 118.

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