CHAPTER- VIII
ADMINISTRATION OF HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT

After the attainment of Indian independence in 1947, Tamil Nadu, the Indian sub continent’s part and parcel was also amenable to political changes thereafter occurred. In 1951, Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Administration Act XIX of 1951 was passed. This was an important turning point with regard to temple administration because the ‘Commissioner’ became the chief administrator and the members became government officials. Area Committees were constituted to appoint Trustees to temples which had an income below Rs.20,000. The Commissioner appointed the Trustees to temples who had an income above Rs.10000. Deputy Commissioner was the administrator and Assistant Commissioners presided over the Area Committees. But he had no right to vote. The Madras Act of 1951 instituted the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department in the place of Hindu Religious Charitable Endowment Board. ¹Temples of Tiruchirappalli had Inspectors placed under Assistant Commissioner of Tiruchirappalli.² An analysis of the administration of the temples between 1947 and 1972 is made in this chapter. This exposes the changing trends in the temple administration.

2. Tirukoil, Indhu Samaya Aranilaya thurai Veliyedu, Chennai, November, 1958, pp. 7-9
This Department is functioning from Nungambakkam, Madras from 2 November 1959 onwards. Upto that period the following were the presidents.³

**Table- 8-1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>T.Sadhasiva Iyer</td>
<td>07.02.1925 - 22.11.1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>R.Surya Rao (Temporary)</td>
<td>23.11.1927 - 30.04.1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C.V.Aranga Reddy</td>
<td>01.05.1928 - 30.03.1930-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>R.Surya Rao</td>
<td>01.04.1930 - 16.05.1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A.Gandappa</td>
<td>17.05.1935 - 15.5.1940-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>T.M.Narayanasamy Pillay</td>
<td>16.05.1940 - 14.11.1944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 30 September 1951 when a new Act was passed, the Board and President were abolished and they were replaced by a Department and Commissioner. T.N.Chinniah Pillai was the first commissioner.⁴

The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act 1947 (Madras Act V of 1947) broke down the barrier to exclude certain people of Hindu Society from entering the temples. The Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947 (Madras Act XXXI of 1947) also removed the dark spot in the administration of Hindu temples. Beyond these two remarkable reforms, the territorial jurisdiction of the president, Hindu Religious Endowment Board and the two Commissioners were altered with effect from 15, December 1947. From 1ˢᵗ July 1947 to 30ᵗʰ June 1948, 12,961 major institutions and 15,574 minor institutions were brought to function. Under control of Commissioners specific Registers were introduced. A Scheme of Administration was

⁴. *Ibid.*, p.4
introduced in 84 institutions and 1764 Audit Reports were received. During the period of 1947-1948, the following was the financial position.

**Table-8-2**

**Financial Position, 1947-1948**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>Rs.1.58 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>Rs.10.45 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Rs.12.03 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment &amp; Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>Rs.11.60 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>Rs.0.43 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For training 15 students of Vaishnava and Saiva faiths a school was started at Tirunelveli and it was funded by donations from various temples. Nearly thirty one temples were renovated. *SthalaPuranams* of five temples were also published.\(^5\) Such were the changes put into effect during the year of independence. They were also beneficial to have the facts about the historical development of the temple.

The Act No. V 1949 of Tamil Nadu was another step towards progress. By this Act the already functioning Temple Committees were abolished due to their negligence of duties. Assistant Commissioners were appointed to carry out the duties of the Committee Members. They conducted enquiries and

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investigations and passed verdicts. Their verdicts could be appealed to the Commissioner, whose orders were final.⁶

The Madras Act V of 1947 (The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act) was amended by the Madras Act XIII of 1949 and that came into effect from 28\textsuperscript{th} June 1949. By this Act, two schemes were introduced. One was for the verification and appraisement of jewels and valuables of the religious institutions and the next one was to lend advices to the religious institutions regarding rent, land, estates of religious institutions. A separate Verification Officer was appointed. By this Act, the inam lands were compiled. The Special Officer appointed suggested modifications and changes to the Executive authorities. Trustees were appointed for 241 temples. The following was the financial statement for 1948-1949.

**Table-8-3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>Rs.0.43 lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>Rs.12.11 lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>Rs.12.54 lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Balance</td>
<td>Rs.1.20 lakhs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Act of 1949 brought 13213 major institutions and 15,376 minor institutions under its control.⁷ Various changes were introduced for the sake of the efficient administrative of the temple.

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⁶ Ibid., 1948 – 1949, Madras, 1949, p. 103

⁷
During the year 1950-51, 28,322 major institutions were brought under the control of the Board. A sum of 9.5 lakhs was collected as contribution, and the arrears were Rs.3.75 lakhs.\(^8\)

For making proper appointments and to fix the pay of a permanent member was sanctioned in 1950-51. The proceedings for the utilization of time scale was also introduced.\(^9\) By the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Act of 1951 (Madras Act XIX of 1951) the Commissioner, Deputy commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and other officers and servants including Executive Officers of religious institutions employed were treated as Government Servants and their salaries, allowances, pensions and other remunerations were to be paid from the consolidated fund of the State. Among 309 Executive officers those who were working as Assistant Commissioners were given the right to countersign and pass T.A Bills of the officials.\(^10\)

During 1951-1952 the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department had one Commissioner, three Deputy Commissioners, and 21 officers at the grade of Assistant Commissioners. On 31\(^{st}\) June 1951, there were 13,726 temples under its control. From 1\(^{st}\) July 1951 to 29 September 1951 the following was the abstract of the financial statement.

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10. Letter R.C. No. 37900/ 59 of the HR & CE Commissioner to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras 1 February 1959.
From 30th September 1951 onwards due to provincialisation the contributions and other amounts realized were credited to government accounts.  

For introducing further amendments to the earlier Act of 1952, The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act 1954 was passed.  

With regard to the lessees who had taken temple lands were made responsible for any loss sustained by the temple incurred during the lease period. For the malpractices of the leases in the temple fund when brought to light by Auditors the lease was cancelled.

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formed, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board was to have the following officials.\textsuperscript{14}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officials</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Assistant</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Superintendents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Superintendents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division Clerks</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Division clerks</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typists</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peons</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These allotments were made according to the needs of the Department. This sanction was made for a period from 22\textsuperscript{nd} September 1953 to 21\textsuperscript{st} January 1954 and after that new sanction was to be obtained.\textsuperscript{15}

The Amendment Act of 1954 had the following features also. They are

a) The Commissioner was treated as an individual to play a corporate role. He had a common seal.

b) The Madras Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments (Administration) Fund was left under the control Commissioner and he met with all the expenses of the Department from that fund.

c) Payment of contribution and audit fees were due to the Commissioner.

\textsuperscript{14} G.O. No 3218, Revenue Department, 21 December, 1953.
\textsuperscript{15} G.O. No 117, Rural Welfare Department, 22 September 1953.
d) The Commissioner was allowed to grant exemption to religious institutions up to income of Rs.200. It was left to the discretion power of the Commissioner.

e) He was authorised to grant money from the above mentioned fund to carry out repairs and renovations of religious institutions.  

Like other districts, Trichirappalli district also had an area committee. From 1st July 1953 onwards the Deputy commissioners of Tanjore had shifted his headquarters to Trichirappalli. For investigation and inspection, the Commissioner was to be on camps. He had to appoint the Trustees. He was authorised to inspect the offices of the Deputy as well as Assistant Commissioners. He offered regular instructions to his subordinates.

The Deputy Commissioners had headquarters at Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli. They were also touring officers and conducted administrative and judicial enquiries. They also inspected the offices of the Assistant Commissioners.  

The Assistant Commissioners were also touring and inspecting officers of the Religious Institutions. They were Chairmen of the respective area committees and presided over meetings and conducted the proceedings. In the absence of area committees, the Assistant Commissioners carried out its duties. Beyond them therewere other office subordinate staff. It was the duty of all to maintain the buildings of the temples and their premises neat and clean. By that, they had to preserve the religious atmosphere. Tanks and water facilities

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17. Ibid., p.5
should be provided. Arrangements should be made for easy and free worship. Proper lamps and lighting arrangements should be given. All idols should be kept clean and ready for worship at all times. The outer prakaras and circumambulatory passages should be clean. Odhuvars, Vedaparayanikar, priests and instrumental musicians should all be appointed. Vibhudhi, Kumkum should be offered to devotees. Devotional songs should be sung regularly. Religious discourses and festivals should be conducted uninterruptedly. The pilgrims should be provided with all facilities.\textsuperscript{18}

In addition to the above, registers and records were maintained in tact by the Executive Officers. Rules and regulations along with the provisions of the earlier Acts were adhered by them. The properties were kept in proper custody.\textsuperscript{19}

Due to the formation of Andhra State on 1\textsuperscript{st} October 1953, the number of the staff of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments were reduced and it was as shown below

\textbf{Table-8.6}

\begin{tabular}{|l|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Officials} & \textbf{Number} \\
\hline
Commissioner & One \\
Deputy Commissioner & Two \\
Assistant Commissioner & Twelve \\
Personal Assistant & One \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\textsuperscript{18} Ibid., pp.12 - 13
\textsuperscript{19} Ibid., pp.14 - 16
There were 8441 major institutions and 6,639 minor institutions. The other activities were continued as in the previous years. Arrangements for verification and appraisement of jewels and valuable belongings to various religious institutions were made. Special staff were deputed to supervise the festivals and to safeguard the hundials. The receipts of the Department during 1954-1955 was Rs.5,50,070/- and the expenditure was Rs.6,89,010. It indicates the gradual growth and development of the activities of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments. The increased expenditure also showed that the importance assigned to the temple development by the Government.

The above mentioned adequate measures continued during 1955-1956 also. Two educational institutions i-e, the Vedapadasalas of Kumbakonam and Tiruvayyaru functioned continuously. Among the nine poor homes and orphanages, one was functioning from Nachchiyar Koil. Nearly ninety temples were renovated. The programme of beautification of temples too continued. A sum of Rs.63.68 lakhs, belonging to various religious institutions, was invested in National Savings Certificates, State Loans and other Government securities.

During 1956-19 57, 214 new institutions came under the department. The receipts during the period was Rs.8,06,850.12.6 and the expenditure was Rs.7,95,469.9.5. Along with other developments the receipts also increased and the expenses also increased. It should be noted that the Madras Act XIX of

20. Ibid., p.97
21. Ibid., p 99
1951 stipulated many rules to be followed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable institutions. All the activities of the different officials, Trustees, financial arrangements, service procedures etc, were all notified in detail. They served as guidelines for the successful functioning of the Department concerned. It was also a custom among the Department to publish its administration report regularly every year. This practice was beneficial to know the different activities executed in every year. This was a significant aspect.

The year 1957-58 witnessed a total transaction as noted below:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>Rs.2,46,91,460.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges</td>
<td>Rs.2,45,04,211.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During this period the Madras Act XXVII of 1954 and Madras Act IX of 1956 were in force. The incorporated and unincorporated institutions were placed under *devasthanams*. At the end of the year 1958, there were 6,727 temples. The area committees dealt with 10,417 cases. The Inspecting officers of this department were deputed to attend the auction of the leases and rights belonging to religious institutions with a view to prevent combination collusion or fraud amongst bidders. A sum of Rs.4,00,000/- was allocated for repair and renovation, Clearance works of 132 temples were under taken during this period. It is worth to note that a total sum of Rs. 31,97,931 was in savings and that was invested in Savings Certificates as per rules. The other Acts connected with temples were also attended to.

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Even for temples which had an income below Rs.3000/- Auditors were appointed.²⁸ Audit Inspectors were appointed to audit the accounts of the religious institutions whose annual income was less than Rs.1000/-.²⁹ A sum of Rs.8,94,380 was spent for the construction of the office for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board at Madras³⁰ It was decided that a sum of 3% of the endowments should be contributed.³¹ The Administrative Fund of the Department was to include the following ³²

a) Fees paid to Government pleaders.

b) Cost of Stationary and Printing Forms.

c) Pensions

d) Contribution to provident fund of the officers and servants of the Department.

e) Gratuity paid to officers and servants of the Department.

Due to want of service, the government did not hesitate to retain a temporary staff even after the expiry of the stipulated appointment. The following were the temporary staff.

a) Editor of a Journal

b) Upper Division clerk

c) Typist

d) Peon

²⁸. G.O.No. 2899, Revenue Department, 3 October 1959.
²⁹. Ibid.
³¹. Letter No. 7452 of the Special Government Pledger to Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Madras, 13 February 1957
³². Letter R.C. No. 4823 / 57, F – 1, Madras. 4 March 1957
This appointments were essential for the publication of a monthly Journal in Tamil Nadu under the auspicious activities of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Board (Administration) Department. Adequate provisions were also made in the Budget.  

Steps were taken to maintain the idols and temple premises neat and tidy as noted below:

1) By using chemicals such as Gamaxine, Lysol, Benzoin etc., the problem of bats were avoided.
2) Proper lighting arrangements were made in the Temple.
3) In the garbhagriha and ardhamandapa only oil lamps should be used. No electric lights were used in those two areas.
4) The Electric lights were avoided from falling straight on the images. The worshippers must be able to see the images properly. To that extent oil lamps must be employed.
5) No electrifications were allowed to decorate the mounts, chariots, palanquins etc of the deities at times of processions during festivals.
6) The growth of plants in the walls, vimanas and towers were removed. With the use of “Globe tree killer” such growths were prevented.
7) No thorns of the interruptions should disturb the worshippers while moving around the prakaras.
8) The black stone walls, pillars, the inscriptions, the beautiful sculptures were kept away from white washing and painting.

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33. G.O. No. 395, Revenue Department, 9 February 1959
9) While undertaking renovations the inscriptions and the sculptures were protected.

10) Minor repair works were undertaken immediately then and there

11) Proper and costlier paints were used.

12) The water in the temple were kept clean to be used at any time.

13) The idols were clothed promptly. The cloths were washed regularly.

14) The figures of Azhwar and Nayanmars were arranged in the uniform order and their names were written in the rear wall.

15) The shrines also were given the names.

16) The screens were having the figures of Nandhi, Linga, Conch, Chakra and Tirunamam.

17) The rituals and chanting were executed promptly.

18) At times of festivals discourses, parayanams and devotional lectures were arranged.

19) During the Tamil month, Margazhi, Thiruvembavai and Thiruppavai were sung.

20) A notice Board was placed which contained details about times of rituals, date of festivals, Kattalais etc.

21) The hymns of Nayanmars and Parsurams of the Azhvars were carved in stones.

22) The Sthala Varalaru or temple history was published and that offered the history of temples.
These activities reveal that the Department had made regular arrangements to improve Bhakti or devotional spirit among the devotees in all possible ways. The devotion towards the temple worship was also encouraged because temples were the abodes of Gods and Goddesses.

As the Dharma chatrams maintained by the temples formed part of the properties and endowments, the Department was specific in maintaining them in tact without any financial crisis.\textsuperscript{35} Steps were also taken to avoid mismanagement of the charitable endowments. The Inspectors made regular visits and inspected the accounts and verified the records. The general conditions were inspected. As the charities were purely private and hereditary, they were maintained in tact. Separate committees were also constituted to protect the choultries which formed a part of the properties of a temple.\textsuperscript{36}

The non-Gazetted members of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department were transferred to the areas of the temples. Further on the basis of merit, able and senior officials were appointed as editors of \textit{Tirukkoil}, by the Commissioner. The editor's scale of pay was fixed as Rs.200-10-300 with usual allowances. He was eligible for pension, gratuity etc. In general he should possess M.O.L. or B.O.L. Degree and should have faith in Hindu Religion. His probation period was fixed as two years.\textsuperscript{37}

The \textit{Annadanachatram} (Food Charity Hall) in Tiruchirappalli was managed by the Department by removing all the problems occurred in the form of

\begin{flushright}
35. G.O. No. No. 1082, Revenue Department, 7 April 1959.  
\end{flushright}
management and finance.\textsuperscript{38} The government also allowed a grant of Rs.6000/- through Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Board for maintaining a

*Pooja Veedu* by Raja of Pudukkottai.\textsuperscript{39}

A separate Consultative Committee was constituted during April 1957 to obtain the co-operation of the officials in the administration and preservation of religious institutions. The committee which had 15 members was presided over by the Home Minister. Five sub-committees were also constituted to report on arts, managements of the temple, literature, publications etc. After visits to places and periodical meetings they sent reports to the commissioner. Other activities were carried out in all the temples, without any exemption of the temples at Tiruchirappalli.\textsuperscript{40}

To reenact the previous Act after removing the defects, the Madras Act XXII of 1959 was passed. It was applicable to all the districts of Tamil Nadu. It repealed the Madras Act XIX of 1951 and the Travancore- Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act 1950 (Travancore- Cochin Act XV of 1950). It was to facilitate the Shencottah and other areas which were included with Tamil Nadu to get all the facilities of Tamil Nadu.\textsuperscript{41}

With regard to the fundamental rules of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board, it was decided to appoint suitable persons for all the posts in temple service. The pay of the permanent member was also regularised as per the scales of pay sanctioned by the government. It was the

\textsuperscript{38} G.O. No. No.1652, Revenue Department, 30 May 1959.
\textsuperscript{39} G.O. No. No.1381, Revenue Department, 5 May 1959
duty of the Commissioner to eliminate the discrepancies in the fixation of pay.\textsuperscript{42}

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act of 1959 (Madras Act No XXII of 1959) also maintained the staff and their status quo as per previous acts. In some cases the Executive officers themselves served as controlling and pay drawing officers. But those who served in the villages were placed under the concerned Assistant Commissioners of that area. The Assistant Commissioners served as controlling and countersigning officers, with powers to pass the Pay as well as Travelling Allowance bills of the Executive Officers.\textsuperscript{43} Even for making appointment as area committee member, a candidate need not be a trustee in any temple and if at all heavy that cost he should resign that post before becoming a member of the committee.\textsuperscript{44} Even retired people and Members of the Legislative Assemblies claimed to be members of the Area Committees. As they were income tax assesses and devoted Hindus they claimed it as a privilege.\textsuperscript{45} The Chairman and members of the Area Committees were appointed.\textsuperscript{46} The term of office of the committees were fixed by the Government. \textsuperscript{47} The existing members of the Area

\textsuperscript{42} G.O. No. 957, Rural Welfare Department, 12 September 1951.
\textsuperscript{43} HR & CE Commissioner’s Letter R.C. No. 37909/59 I, December 1959 to the Secretary, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, Madras, 1959.
\textsuperscript{44} Letter No. 21935/V/60-3, dated 22 March 1960 of the Secretary, Government of Madras.
\textsuperscript{45} Personal Letter of R. Krishnasamy Reddiar, Member of Legislative Assembly, Madras, 11 March 1960.
\textsuperscript{46} G.O. No.1680, Revenue Department, 30 March 1960
\textsuperscript{47} G.O. No.1, Revenue Department, 1 January 1960
Committees had the right to ask for reappointment to the committee after the expiry of the term of office.\textsuperscript{48}

Since the Hindu Religious and Endowments Board was provincialised on 30\textsuperscript{th} September 1951, it was a custom of the government to ask the Commissioner to offer particulars regarding the grades, permanent and non-permanent staff for enabling the government to make appointments.\textsuperscript{49} There were “Supervisory Staff” and “Executive Staff” serving in the temples. For regularizing their services and for financial dealing it was necessary to maintain statements and records. This was applicable even to the Executive Officers also.\textsuperscript{50} The pay and other allowances were approved by the Accountant General.\textsuperscript{51} The Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Endowments made arrangements and supplied details to enable the Executive Officers to draw their salaries\textsuperscript{52} because their services were also provincialised. A flat rate of 10\% was recovered from the funds of the institution every month and finally this amount was to be adjusted from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Fund.\textsuperscript{53} As the services of the Executive officers of the temple were provincialised from 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1960 onwards they were treated as non gazetted government servants. The Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments department, being Gazetted

\textsuperscript{48} Letter of T.V. Sannasi, Member of Legislative Assembly, Madras, 11 March 1960
\textsuperscript{49} Memorandum No 29992, D1/60 - 1, 14, May, 1960 of the Revenue Department, Madras.
\textsuperscript{52} HR & CE Commissioner’s Letter R.C. No.5427/60 (T.I), Madras, 3 August 1960.
\textsuperscript{53} Ibid, R.C.No.31054/60 F.3, 10 September 1960.
officers were entrusted with the right to control the executive officers and to countersign their bills. For recovery purposes the Bills pertaining to them were prepared in triplicate. The flat rate recovery of 10% was not applicable to the Executive Officers. Further the contributions regarding pension and leave salary also be recovered from the above said fund.\textsuperscript{54}

Due to the provincialisation of Executive officers, a draft amendment was made for their financial commitments\textsuperscript{55}. The Commissioner had to send the addresses of all the members of the Area Committees to the Secretary of Revenue Department. With regard to Tiruchirappalli, the addresses of the following five members were given in 1960\textsuperscript{56}

1. R. Krishnasamy Reddiar M.L.A – Chairman
2. V. Arunchala Thevar M.L.A - Member
3. Dr. V.K. Reganathan – Member
4. R. Duraisamy Padayachi – Member
5. T.V. Sannasi M.L.A. - Member

The names of all the Area Committee members were published in the fort St. George Gazette on 1\textsuperscript{st} April, 1960.\textsuperscript{57} New additional members were also included separately.\textsuperscript{58}

\textsuperscript{54} G.O. No. 757, Revenue Department, 9 February 1960.
\textsuperscript{55} HR & CE Commissioner’s Letter, No.2499/60, Madras, 22 January, 1960
\textsuperscript{56} Ibid, No 40959/59. 24 March, 1960.
\textsuperscript{57} G. O. No. 1680, Press Department, 24 March 1960
\textsuperscript{58} Assistant Secretary, Public Works Department, Letter No 2464, D2/60-1, 26 March 1960.
There were five categories of Executive officers as noted below and they were permitted to draw advances from their salaries as recommended by the Assistant Commissioners.  

**Table- 8-7**

**Grades of Executive Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Scale of Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Rs.150-10-200-EB-15-350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Rs.100-5-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Rs.80-5-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Rs.45-3-60-2-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Rs.35/- (consolidated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This was to maintain an uniform standard in the administration on the basis of the size of the temples. The Assistant Commissioners were authorised to countersign their bills which were in duplicate. The Executive Officers were eligible for Dearness Allowance, Compensatory Allowances, Medical Expenses etc., The Commissioner at times of necessity asked for additional funds from the Government. The Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners were directed to issue orders to the Executive officers to draw advances from temple funds in consultation with the Trustees.

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59. HR & CE Commissioner’s Letter, R.C.No 5427/60 (IT), 29 June 1960.
By the Act XXII of 1959 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments which came into force from 1st January 1960, all steps to improve the religious atmosphere of the temples were undertaken. Permanent amenities were afforded for water supply in many temples along with the construction of rest houses. Approval was granted to the introduction of the Dairy Development Scheme in the Mayrajuneswarar Temple in Tiruchirappalli District. A sum of Rs.1,14,662.29 was spent for the construction of the office building in the site owned by department.63

Powers were delegated with certificates issued by the Commissioner. Even for getting increments for Assistant commissioners of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (Administration) Department, certificate was necessary from the appointing authority.64 The Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment was granted power impose minor penalties such as censure and with holding of increments and to postings, transfers and grant of leave.65 There were additional powers delegated to the Commissioner in addition to their powers to issue certificate to Assistant Commissioners and powers to accord sanction for payment of additional pay under fundamental Rule No.49.66

As per the Act No.22 of 1959, though the Government had appointed Advisory Committee to assist the commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment, twelve non – officials were appointed as members of

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the committee by the Governor of Madras. They were appointed for three years and were paid Travelling allowance and Daily allowance.\textsuperscript{67}

The minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment was the Ex-officio Chairman of the Committee. The Secretary to Government Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment, the Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment were the official members of the Committee for a period of three years. The Revenue Secretary was also included to assist the Commissioner in financial matters. He was the countersigning authority of the Travelling Allowance Bill of the members of the Advisory Committee. He fixed the date of the meeting and prepared the agenda. \textsuperscript{68} Separate rules for Advisory Committee were also introduced and the committee offered its recommendations for the propagation of religious tenets, for maintaining schools and training institutions for \textit{Archakasadhyapaks} and \textit{Vedaparayanakas}, and for introducing the study of Hindu religion and philosophy in colleges and universities for giving advices to maintain the temples in tact. \textsuperscript{69} A standard scale of expenditure was also fixed. \textsuperscript{70} Separate rules called, ‘\textit{Publication of Notice and Notification Rules}’ was introduced mainly for published facts about the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department in the Fort St. George Gazette. \textsuperscript{71} The rules called, ‘\textit{The Alienation of Removable Trust property Rules}’ were framed mainly to

\textsuperscript{67} G.O. No.3, Revenue Department, 1 January 1960
\textsuperscript{68} G.O. No. 507, Revenue Department, 29 January 1960
\textsuperscript{69} G.O. No.663, Revenue Department, 5, February 1960
\textsuperscript{70} G.O. No. 860, Revenue Department 13 February 1960
\textsuperscript{71} G.O. No. No.661, Revenue Department, 5 February 1960
regulate the exchange, or mortgage or lease for a term exceeding five years. 72

Due to State Reorganisation in 1956, for the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (Administration) Department, the strength of officials was fixed as below. 73

**Table-8-8**

**Strength of Officials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post of Officials</th>
<th>Number and Nature of Posting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Superintendents</td>
<td>2 Permanent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Superintendents and Managers</td>
<td>5 Permanent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division Clerks and Inspectors</td>
<td>37 Permanent, 19 Temporary (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenographers</td>
<td>1 Permanent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Division Clerks</td>
<td>86 Permanent, 54 Temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typists &amp; Steno Typists</td>
<td>17 Permanent, 12 Temporary (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenders</td>
<td>5 Permanent, 2 Temporary (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peons</td>
<td>65 Permanent, 34 Temporary (69)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They were amenable to state service rules. The functions of the Board of Trustees Rules with Revenue Department Notification SRO. A. 583 of 1960 was put into effect as per the Act of 1959. 74 By that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees convened a special meeting by the concurrence of the Assistant

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72. G.O. No.866, Revenue Department, 15 February 1960
73. G.O. No.1334, Revenue Department, 5 March 1960
74. G.O. No. 938, (Revenue) 6, March, 1964
Commissioner. After the expiry of his period, the Assistant Commissioner, by a special meeting elected the Chairman.\textsuperscript{75} The election of the fresh chairman should be conducted within thirty days of the completion of the period of the Chairman.\textsuperscript{76}

In 1964, there were 7872 major and 5310 minor temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department. A *Harikatha Kahebam* training School was functioning under its control from Thanjavur. The Palaniandavar College of Oriental Culture, Palani and a Thevaram School at Palani were under its control. In 1963 High Schools were started at Tirunelveli, Coutralam, Thiruverkadu, Madurai, Ramesvaram and Kallakurichchi by the Department. A College of Oriental Culture at Poompuhar was also started in that year. The Thirumalai Muthukumaraswami Temple and Agneeswaraswami temple at Panpoli and Thiruppugalur respectively run two Siddha Vaidhya Research Centres. The temples at Thiruchendur, and Vaidheeswarankoil started Siddha Dispensaries.\textsuperscript{77}

In 1965 the Advisory Committee of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment was reconstituted.\textsuperscript{78} During June 1965, Summer Refresher Courses were conducted for Executive Officers of temples and Inspectors by the Department at Palani and Mayuram. In 1965, Women’ Arts College at Kulithurai was started and *Siddha Vaidhya* dispensaries were started at Tirunelveli and Palani.

\textsuperscript{75} Function of the Board of Trustees Rules, No.16 and 18.
\textsuperscript{76} Letter No.6786/63 – A3 of the Commissioner, Madras, 28 July 1962.
\textsuperscript{78} G.O. No. 1688, Revenue Department, 4 May 1965
The Journal *Tirukkoil*, started on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 1958 continued in a prospering way. Tree planting, Intensive cultivation of vegetables, celebration of More Milk Day, preservation of wild life etc, were the other community welfare schemes arranged by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment.\(^79\)

All the works executed during the year 1965 were continued by the Department. The Advisory Committee met at Ootacamund on 5\textsuperscript{th} May 1966. Eight orphanages were functioning under the Department. A Tamil College of Oriental Culture was functioning from Manali. The Department started the Tamil Nadu Deivika Peravai in June 1966 and it was a registered body. On 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 1966 a training centre called, ‘Hindu Religious Pracharakar and Guides’ was started. The social welfare activities continued along with *Vanamahotsava* celebration.\(^80\) Thus steps were taken to enhance the status of temple by various activities of the Board.

The Commissioners granted exemptions to the Executive Officers for the works carried out by him upto Rs.1000. Such arrangements were also made up to the tune of Rs. 10,000.\(^81\) The works also continued succeeding by and successfully.

The Madras Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act 1967 came into force from 28\textsuperscript{th} March, 1968. The Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act of 1968 was put into effect from 16\textsuperscript{th} October 1968. On 31\textsuperscript{st} March 1969, there were 9, 347 temples were under the control of

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81. G.O. No. 1258, Revenue Department, 21 June 1965
the Department. Nearly 176 Trustees were appointed and 51 new religious institutions were brought under the control of the Department. The actual orphans numbering 177 were added by 93 more. The Area Committees were abolished according to the Madras Act 19 of 1968. In 1968, a Special Officer in the cadre of grade I Executive Officer was appointed and his head quarters was located at Madurai and it is functioning from 12th March 1968 onwards. The lands belonging to the temples were given lease to 84 Tenants Co-operative Farming Societies. A sum of Rs.4,00,000 was sanctioned by the government for renovation and revival of poor religious institutions. A sum of Rs. 21,21,546. 41 was invested in various Government securities. All the other things continued to function effectively. 82

During the year 1969–1970, there were 9936 temples under the control of the department. Around 215 trustees were there. The Advisory Committee also continued to function. The Thiruppugalur Devasthanam started a Medical Dispensary. A sum of Rs. 11,25,400.56 was invested on different government securities. Temple lands were placed under lease to 84 Tenants Co-Operative Farming Societies. Arrangements were made for the conduct of archanai in Tamil was introduced. Thirumurai Archana scheme was also introduced. Along with the different educational institutions 19 Kalyana Mandapams, ten rest houses and cottages, three pilgrim houses were built. The different celebrations conducted during previous years also contributed. 83

It was a customary practice to verify the jewels and valuables in the temples of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department by a verification officer. The reports, suggestions and defects pointed out by him were all recorded. Further the verification also had suggested that the maintenance of the jewels and valuables should be given due regard.\textsuperscript{84}

All the above facts indicate that the temple administration was carried out by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Department as per the modified rules and regulations stipulated by the amendment Acts introduced by the Madras Government. The administration was executed with the support of the committees appointed every now then for changes. The income of the temples were also increasing year by year and that informs that the number of devotees were increasing. Due to the free flow of fund, the temples began to concentrate more on social welfare measures. Training institutions, schools, and colleges were all started and they paved the way for social cohesion between temple and society.

\textsuperscript{84} G.O. No. 642, Revenue Department, 4 March 1964.
CONCLUSION

The study of the temple administration in the *Chola Divya Desams* with special reference to Trichirappalli District (1925-1972) throws light on different facts associated with temple activities. Trichirappalli District, as other areas of Tamil Nadu is a prominent area due to the presence of a large number of temples of both Saivism and Vaishnavism along with other minor or folk deities. They testify to the devotional attitude and outlook of the people of that area. Tiruchirappalli, the capital of the modern Trichirappalli district was popular during the early periods. Uraiyr was the capital of Cholas. The later Nayaks had Tiruchirappalli as their capital. Tiruchirappalli was also a centre of conflict between the British, French and Muslim rulers. The political supremacy led to the development of religions all over India.

Tiruchirappalli itself is a known centre for its temples. The Uchchi Pillayar koil, The Jalakandeswara temple of Thiruvanikkal, The Samayapuram Mariamman temple, the Sriranganatha temple and Kamatchi Amman temple at Sriranagam, Uraiyr Tantonriswarar temple, the Bojiswara temple of Kannanur, the Palaivananathaswamy temple of Thiruppalaidurai, Virakandiamman temple of Virappur, Uyyakkondan Thirumalai temple at Karkudi, the Sundaraja Perumal temple of Anbil, the Muditholumbar temple of Aivar Malai, the Sapthagiriswara temple of Lalgudi, the Mayanurkulumagi Amman temple, Nedumgalam Siva temple, the Muvar temple of Uthamarkoil, the Naganatha temple of Tiruchirappalli, Valadilakshminarayana perumal temple, the Prasannavengatapathy temple of Gunaseelam, the Mahakaliswari
temple at Kuthaippar village, the Thirumalapadisiva temple, the Gnilivaneswaran temple at Thiruppapainili, the Simmapuriswarar temple at Karuppathur, the Palur Navagraha temple, Thiruvellaraipundarikashan Vishnu temple, the Bhuvaneswari temple at Tiruchirappalli, the Kallukudiaujaneya temple at Trichy, etc, are the captivating popular temples even today and they explicate the devotion of the people.

Among the 40 Divyadesams of Chola Nadu, Srirangam, the abode of Sriranganatha is a place of Varishnava sampradaya. Kambar released his Kambarayana from this temple. Ramanuja announced his mutts only from here. Eleven Alvars have sung about this place. This huge Vaishnava temple of south India is well maintained one to meet out the needs of the devotees of Vaishnavism.

Srirangam occupied an important place during the Chola rule. The Cholas of the Vijayalaya line exercised control over Srirangam for a period well over four centurries with unbridled power. The annexation of Cholamandalam by Aditya I was a strategic success. Srirangam slipped away from the hands of Chola ParantakaI who could not regain it in his life time. With the assistance extended by the local and loyal feudatories, the successors of Parantaka I retrieved the losss after the death of Krishna and recaptured Srirangam which later on became virtually the secondary capital of the Cholas. It was from Srirangam that Rajendra I, the adventurous Chola monarch, embarked on a policy of military expansion and conducted his victorious military monarch to Chalukyan territories. After the treacherous murder of
Adirajendra in a local uprising, Kulottunga I, a prince of Eastern Chlukya descent, became the undisputed master of Srirangam. It was the era of the collapse of the gigantic Chola Empire, which had dominated the political scenario for centuries. On the imperial throne, after a reign of many sovereigns, there sat Rajaraja III, a weak and nominal ruler. All that remained to him or to his successor was the old glory of the Chola Empire. Only the shadow was there.

The trading community is mentioned in Chola inscriptions as donors of the various types of gifts to the Srirangam Ranganathaswami Temple. The Shepherds maintained the sheds and cows endowed to the temples. Besides the Chola officials and common people also made donations of the temple. The Chola inscriptions of Srirangam contain some interesting information about the Vishnu temples found in the Tiruchirappalli region. But many of them were not identified now-a-days. Hence they must have been destroyed in due course. Thu Srirangam occupies a significant position in religious and cultural aspects during the Chola period and hereafter.

Uthamarkoil is significant one because the temple there has three shrines for Siva, Vishnu and Brahma. This Mummurthi Sthalam is administered by an Executive Officer of the Hindu Religious Charitable Endowment Board like that of Srirangam.

Thiruvellarai Pundarikasha temple is another renowned Divya Desam of Tiruchirappalli District. Thirumangai Alvar and Periyalvar have sung about
this temple. This temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments Executive Officer.

Uraiyur, now a part of Tiruchirappalli, is the popular Vaishnava centre because it was the birth place of Thiruppanalvar, the author of *Amalanadhipiran*, a part of *Nalayira Divya Prabandam*. Anbil is the fifth *Divya Desam* among the 108 *Divya Desams* sung by Vaishnava Alvars.

Due to the proper administration of these temples, the rituals and festivals are conducted uninterruptedly. The administration of these temples has made all the facilities for the pilgrims and devotees who visit the temple and mainly preserve the traditional and customarily practices of worship.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Board functioning from February 1927, was the effort made by the alien British rule to maintain the administration of the temples, religious institutions and endowments intact. The provincial Government of Madras with a President and Commissioners arranged for a regular administration. The Office of the Commissioner with its graded officials carried out the activities of the administrative activities. Rules and regulations were framed. While the President was the administrative head, he was assisted by Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. Thus the temples in *Divya Desam* are all maintained in tact.

By maintaining a separate Register, every temple is brought under control. The registers comprises of details about the Trustees of the temples and other details pertaining to it. The Malabar Temple Entry Act of 1938 and the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act of 1939 provided opportunities of
temple worship to all people irrespective of caste, colour and creed. The Trustees maintained the respective temples. Separate Scheme of Administration was followed. A paid Executive Officer from the Temple fund was appointed to execute specific duties. The Provincial Government was the authority to supervise and superintendent the Board which was streamlining the activities of temples. All the activities carried out by the Boards, and the changes and alterations made in the administration were published in the Fort. St.George Gazettee, Madras, periodically without fail.

Out of the appropriated fund of the temples and endowments, the Trustees maintained the financial administration. Procedures were also stipulated for dealing with the finance. Specific rules for appointments, budgets, reports, accounts, returns etc were submitted periodically to the Board. The term of office of the Trustees was fixed. To administer the temples in tact and to streamline the activities, a number of Acts were passed by the State Government. Madras Hindu Religious Endowments (Amendment) Act of 1929 also known as Madras Act V of 1929, the Madras Hindu Religious Endowment (Amendment) Act of 1930 also called Madras Act IV of 1930, The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments (Amendment) Act of 1931 also called Madras Act XI of 1931 etc. were passed at different junctures reveal the steps taken to promote the temple administration in an effective manner. Many such laws came up in the subsequent periods even before and after the independence of India.
Even during the British administration i.e., before 1925 greater attention was paid to the preservation of the temples. With the commencement of the Board of Revenue in 1789, temple administration was given due recognition and importance. The Board did a lot for the upkeep and maintenances of the temples. The District Collectors too had their role in the administration of the temple. They streamlined the financial administration of the temple. They had the right to enquire about the endowments. The Board of Revenue, the Collectors, the Superintendent, Trustees and Managers were the authorities who had contacts with the temple administration. The Regulation XXXIII of 1802, the Regulation VII OF 1817 etc., too did their best for proper administration. With the changes introduced in the policies during the rule of the East-India Company, new rules were put into effect. Various legislations were passed in between 1842 and 1863.

Between 1860 and 1925, changes were introduced in the administration. The Act of 1863 enabled the temples to have their own administration. Committees such as Sullivan Committee (1889) C.R. Pantulu Committee (1894) etc too suggested modifications in the administration mainly to keep the workship in the temple in tact. Many Bills were introduced for the redressed of the defects in the temple administrative setup. The Religious and Charitable Trust Act of 1920 offered directives to the Trusts. The Select Committee constituted in 1922 approved the religious mutts as institutions which work for spiritual uplift. The Madras Act I of 1925 and the Madras Act II of 1927 too assisted the proper administration of the temples.
The period between 1925 and 1939 was another significant phase in the temple administration. The Justice Party in power passed many Acts in 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, etc., The Justifies on their own individual religious policies introduced changes in a rationalistic way. Many changes were put into effect regarding the Board, Commissioners, and trustees. Local Committees were also constituted for administration of temples with specific powers. Non-Brahmin elements were also included in their temple policies and administration. Importance was assigned to the devadasi inams. The Executive Officers and the Trustees were also directed to act promptly and to send reports regarding their activities to the Board at Madras. From 1927 onwards, Auditors were appointed to prepare proper accounts. The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Indemnity Act of 1939 (The Madras Act XXII of 1939) also introduced changes effectively.

Though the number of officials and servants of the temples varied, their salaries were made uniform. A Joint Select Committee of twenty members was constituted to discuss about the various aspects of administration. This Committee had done a tremendous task in the temple administration. The problems of the arcakas were also considered from 1931 onwards. Temple Committees were constituted to solve the problems. The alien British rule which followed a policy of non-intervention, was interested in entering, into the portals of religion mainly to introduce changes in the temple administration and to encourage devotees. The temple administration in the pre independent
period was one which inculcated progressive ideas regularly. Sincere and
earnest administrative measures were promulgated promptly.

After independence, due to transfer of power and political changes, new
measures were undertaken. By the Act of 1951, the Commissioner became the
administrator and members became Government Officials. Commissioners,
Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Area Committees, Inspector
and other officers played a predominant role in the temple administration.
Madras Act V of 1947 and Madras Act XXXI of 1947 contributed a lot to the
temple administration. Training Schools for understanding Saiva and
Vaishnava faiths were started. Sthala Puranams were published. By Madras
Act XIII of 1949, steps were taken to verify the jewels and valuables of the
temples. Importance was given to suggest ways and means for improving
temple administration. By the Madras Act XIX of 1951, the government paid
the salary from the consolidated fund of the State. Likewise, many other Acts
were passed in 1952, 1954 etc. As the officials of the department were made as
Government servants, many steps were taken regarding their salary and
services. Many changes were introduced in maintaining the temples, idols,
mounts and other valuables. Dharma Chatrams were maintained by the
temples along with Annadhana Chatrams. Many changes were introduced
due to the Reorganisation of States. Board of Trustees Rules were also framed.
Training centres for archakas and pracharakas were started from 2nd October
1966.
The administration of the temples through the ages were carried out in an effective manner. As the earlier rulers of Tamil Country were known for their religious sentiments preserved the temples efficiently. During the rule of the East India Company and British Crown, due to their policies of proper and efficient administration, they took all efforts for the maintenance of temples even though they followed the policy of non-intervention. Even during the period of freedom struggle, the temples were functioning promptly in promoting devotionalism and spiritualism. With the dawn of independence, it was realised that the temples are the repositories of culture, art and architecture. In this regard, many steps were taken. Many changes also brought according to the time and need in the temple administration. No stone was left unturned in maintaining temples. Modern principles and devices were followed in the administration of temples. The administration of the five Vaishnava temples in the Tiruchirappalli district is not deviating from the provisions introduced by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Trustees and the Executive officers are doing their best in the maintenance and upkeep of the temples and their administration. The political changes too did not cause any damaging trends in the temple administration of Divya Desam. Above all the administrators of all the temples treat temples as a means for social welfare activities through conducting fairs and festivals and opening up of educational institutions and training institutes. This shows the utilisation of temple funds in promoting the welfare activities.