

GUMSUR AND SURADA ZAMINDARIS

ACT NO. XXIII. OF 1836

[Rep., of Act, 24 of 1839]

[10th October, 1836.]

*Passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, on the 10th October, 1836.*

FORT WILLIAM, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, 10TH OCT., 1836.

*Resolution*—The Zemindarees of Goomsur and Soorada, in the District of Ganjam, have long been in a state of the utmost disorder and confusion. The Revenue due to government has for many years past been paid with great irregularity. The Zemindars have frequently been in a state of actual rebellion. The authority of Government has been openly resisted, and the most atrocious acts of violence and outrage have been perpetrated by the Zemindars and their adherents. Although such measures as were consistent with the principles and provisions of the existing Regulations have, from time to time, been adopted by Government and by the local Authorities, with a view to the establishment of good order and permanent tranquility in those Zemindarees, the attainment of that important object has been frustrated by peculiar obstacles arising from the nature of the country, the character of the inhabitants, and other special and local difficulties. The failure of all measures hitherto adopted under the existing laws to restore tranquility—the increasing prevalence of disorders which, if not speedily suppressed, may extend to the neighbouring estates, and the continued resistance opposed to the authority of Government have at length rendered it necessary that the ordinary functions of the Courts of Civil and Criminal Justice, and the operation of the general Regulations should, for the present, be suspended in that part of the District of Ganjam, commonly known under the denomination of the Zemindarees of Goomsur and Soorada, and that a Commissioner should be appointed for those Zemindarees for the purpose of exercising such powers, and discharging such duties, as may be especially entrusted to him, under the instruction of the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, with a view to the collection of the rents, the establishment of a Regular Police, and the restoration of public order and tranquility—His Lordship in Council has therefore been pleased to direct that the following Act be passed, that it is hereby passed accordingly, and promulgated for general information.

ACT NO XXIII. OF 1836.

I. It is hereby enacted, that from the 15th day of November, 1836, the ordinary functions of the Courts of Civil and Criminal justice, and of the constituted Revenue Authorities, as well as the operation of the whole of the existing Regulations, shall be suspended within the Zemindarees of Goomsur and Sooradar, and shall continue to be so suspended until this Act shall be repealed, or until such time as the Governor in Council of Fort St. George shall, by an order in Council and proclamation, declare that the ordinary Regulations shall be again put in force within those Zemindarees.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council of Fort St. George to appoint a Commissioner for the said Zemindarees who shall exercise such powers as may be entrusted to him by the said Governor in Council of Fort St. George, and shall be guided in the discharge of his duties

and functions by such instructions as he from time to time, shall receive from the said Governor in Council.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the jurisdiction of the Court of Circuit, or Court of Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut in any case which may be depending before either of these Courts on the 15th day of November, 1836.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, that the Court of Circuit and Court of Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut shall have Criminal jurisdiction over every person whom the Commissioner in Goomsur and Soorada, under the instructions of the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, may commit for trial, on the charge of any crime perpetrated before or during the operation of this act, and in all such cases, the Court of Circuit of Sudder Forjdaree Adawlut shall be guided by the general Regulations in force.

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