

REPORT OF MISSION

Partner Institution :	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DELHI
Staff/ Expert Name :	DR. ARVIND SINHA
Position :	RESEARCHER
Dates of mission :	17th to 24th April 2006
Place(s) of Mission :	Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
Eurindia Activity N° related to the mission :	ALA/95/23- 2003/77077
Date & Signature	16 May 2006

Objective(s) of the Mission :

Outline the main objective(s) of the mission.

This visit was in continuation of my first visit undertaken in May 2005 to Pondicherry and Chennai but this one was confined to the Archives of Tamil Nadu located at Egmore.

The objectives of the mission were :

1. To examine and add to the list of documents on Indo-European trade available at Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai;
- 2 From the documents so examined to select sources that provide us information on Indian textiles, particularly their exports to Europe through the European Companies or through private traders in the second half of the eighteenth century ;
3. To look for more rare books in archives and libraries of Chennai that could add to the information on the subject in the form of description of textile variety, trade statistics or illustrations, which could be used for visual displays ; and
4. To prepare a list of the selected documents out of the diverse material examined with the purpose of uploading all this information on Eurindia website, as a part of the research undertaken by Delhi University.

Description of the Mission :

Provide an executive summary of your mission

. During my week long stay in Chennai, I decided to consult some more English manuscripts from the Public Consultation series (volume numbers 104-114 & 146-158), Despatches from England (1786-

1792), Despatches to England (1786-1792) and District records of South Arcot and Chingleput, which are available there. Some of the volumes of the Public Consultation Series were consulted by me in my previous visit last year. In this recent trip I had planned to consult a few other volumes that I felt contained information on the subject. Most of these documents are dealing with The English investments in Cuddalore, Vizagapatam, Ingeram and Madapollam. These include official account of the contract system and the controversies arising out of it, the difficulties in procurement of textiles, representation of weavers, competition of private merchants, and detailed information on the Anglo-French controversies and problems arising out of the plan of direct contract with the weavers by excluding Indian merchants, as introduced by the English officer- Cochrane. This series provide vital information on market condition of textiles and various problems arising out of political and natural factors. These sources complement the French sources by providing information on the actual state of affairs of the Indian textile industry.

South Arcot District Records was consulted by me as these include letters to and from Commercial Residents. Volumes 107 to 112 (from 1800 to 1804) contain information on cloth exports, freight charges, packing instructions and Cloth Manufacture Inspection Report, the Report of the Committee of Reform to look into the problems of weavers and the state of cloth prices. It includes the list of goods provided at a place called Cuddalore and these documents give item-wise list of textiles and their cost of manufacture. There is also a mention of the list of merchants involved in the supply of cloths. These documents are basically manuscripts and were available in microfilms. Similarly, the *Chingleput District Records* (all in microfilms) were also consulted but only scattered information was available in these volumes. Most of these documents deal with the problems of law and order, rents from land, reports of district collectors and cotton cultivation undertaken by Pompham, indigo production and petty advances to weavers I was also interested in visiting

Coimbatore was one of the principal centres of textile during the British rule. I was told that there is a library consisting of books on Indian textile industry but after corresponding with them I was informed that the earliest original source dates back to 1864. This would not have been useful for this project.

Concrete and quantified outputs of the missions

Describe the main results achieved.

The following folders and registers were consulted and subsequently a selective list was prepared for the use of Eurindia project.

At the Records Centre of Tamil Nadu Archives, Chennai, I requisitioned and examined the following folders :

Name of the Institution: **TamilNadu Archives, Gandhi-Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai.**

Sr. No.	Title of the Document	Dated	Folder No.	Language	Physical description of the document	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chingleput District Records	1793	Vol. No.472 D Film No.3962	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Has material on Cotton cultivation by attempted by Popham. It also mentions some religious disturbances between members of velleyer caste and weavers of this region. Letters of Balfour, the English collector, advising inducement to weavers to settle in that region with the facilities of houses and materials. To be included in the list.
2.	-do-	1784	Vol. No.440 Film No.3956	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Not much of use for the subject. Not to be listed.
3.	Chingleput District Records	1784	Vol. No.441	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Brief mention of advances made to the weavers.but not of much use for this project.
4.	Chingleput District Records	1786	Vol. No.443	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Not of much use for the subject.
5.	Chingleput District Records	1793-95	Vol. No.445-446	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Report of Roger Darwell of caste-wise and occupation wise division of population including the number of artisans -27 September, 1793. Can be included in this project..
6.	South Arcot District Records	1800-02	Vol. No.107-110	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	In <u>Vol. 107</u> , List of goods to be provided at Cuddalore, item-wise list of textiles with bales and prices mentioned in it. <u>Vol. 108</u> - Mention of some of the Indian merchants and detail of bills of exchange. <u>Vol. 109</u> - <u>provides</u> detail of bills of exchange & gives minute information of textile items through the comments

						of the Board of Trade. <u>Vol. 110-</u> List of Company's assortments, investments, advances to weavers, comparative price list of textile items. To be included in the list.
7.	South Arcot District Records	1803-05	Vol. No.111-115	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	<u>Vol. 111-</u> has a list of information of textile trade, bleaching, packing, variety, Report of warehousekeepers. <u>Vol. 112-</u> entire roll on textile-exclusive information on the subject. Other volumes have little to provide on the subject. To be included in the list.
8.	Public Consultations	1770	Vol. 104 A-929	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Give details of The English investments. Has brief information on French goods from Pondichery, that include textiles such as blue cloth, chintz and betillas. This document also contains information on English dealing with the Indian merchants, contracts for procurements and advances to them and many other issues.(pp. 537-47, 561, 600). To be included in the list.
9.	Public Consultations	1770	Vol. 104 B-930	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Cloth trade carried out in south India by the French and the Dutch (p. 805) and their contract of textile items (923-932). Can be included.
10.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 105 A-931	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscript-repaired	Provides scattered information on the English purchases at Ingeram (120-132), procurement of cloth from local weavers, their collection from different centres and mentions different types of textiles exported from there (pp.245-58). Can be listed.
11.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 105 B-932	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts	Most of the information is on imports to India and public works. Not of use for this project and not to be listed.

					pts-repaired	
12.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 106 A-933	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Nothing pertaining to the subject of this project. Not to be listed.
13.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 106 B-934	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscript-repaired	Detailed information on transaction with weavers and merchants, prices, detail of advances, sorting of cloths. It also gives information on textile centres and village-wise names in Arnee besides mentioning the number of looms, agreements with peykatts and brokers. To be listed.
14.	Public Consultations	1772	Vol. 108 A-937	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscript-repaired	This document has information on merchants contracts with local producers, thread supply dealings with weavers. There is also a mention of French advances in this region. (pp.544, 622, 641). To be listed.
15.	Public Consultations	1772	Vol. 108 B-929	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscript-repaired	Deals with the problems of weavers and merchants and textile purchases (pp.831-51). To be listed.
16.	Public Consultations	1774	Vol. 112 -944	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscript-repaired	Has some information on the mode of investment at Masulipattam, regulation for weavers, complaints against weavers (pp.448, 472, 471-76, 493). To be listed.

17.	Public Consultations	1775	Vol. 113A - 945	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Regulation for merchants and weavers, mode of investments, list of English, French and Danish ship to China (p.153). Not to be listed.
18.	Public Consultations	1775	Vol. 113B - 945	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired Condition brittle---	Dealing with contract system-experiments, information on cloths stolen from washing places. Conflict pertaining to weavers working for the French. Declarations made to be signed by the English gomasthas (pp.225-29, 318-33). To be listed.
19.	Public Consultations	1787	Vol. 146A - 17	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Gives information on the supply of cloths, contract for investments, shortage of supply, collection of balances from weavers at Madapollam (pp. 965-67,3021, 3052-53). To be listed.
20.	Public Consultations	1787	Vol. 146 B -18	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Nothing worth mentioning for the subject. Not to be listed.
21.	Public Consultations	1787	Vol. 146 C -19	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts	The second half of the ledger is full of discussion on Cochrane's plan of investment attempting to exclude Indian merchants (p 3510). The ledger gives a list of pieces of long cotton and percales, and mentions supply of thread, musters, investments, procedures, godowns. To be listed.

					pts-repaired	
22.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 149 A -24	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Proposal of investments and grievances of weavers, high prices of cotton (pp. 1209, 1430-37). To be listed.
23.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 149 B -25	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Almost the entire ledger deals with plans of investments and contracts, problems of weavers (pp. 1676-1767). To be listed.
24.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 150 A -18	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Employment of weavers, the quantity of cloth manufacturers, response of the french agents (pp.1780-1802). To be listed.
25.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 150 B -27	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Not much information except on the damaged cloths while washing due to natural factors and thefts. Not to be listed.
26.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 150 C -28	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-	Mainly dealing with private trade with china and its reporting to the English authorities. Not to be listed.

					repaired	
27.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 154 A -36	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Nothing much on textiles. Not to be listed.
28.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 154 B -37	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Nothing much on textiles. Not to be listed.
29.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 155 A -38	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Hardly any information on textile. Not to be listed.
30.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 155 B -39	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Investments and brief information on Palempores for England (pp. 1344, 1400-06). To be listed.
31.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 156 A -40	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Supply of cloths from various factories (p.1629). To be listed.
32.	Public	1789	Vol. 156 B	English	Thick	Not of much use for the project.

	Consultations		-41		bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Not to be listed.
33.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 157 A -42	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Details of the cash transactions by the Company. Not of direct use for the project.
34.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 157 B -42	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Scattered and brief information of cloths ordered , the Company's investments and losses suffered in course of washing. To be listed.
35.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 157 B -43	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Reports on imorts, market conditions, representation of head weavers, and mention of the shortage of spinners. To be listed.
36.	Public Consultations		Vol. 158 A & B -44 & 45	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Scattered and insufficient information of textiles. Some details of the cost of manufacture of salempores, of thread, labour and weaver's wages. To be be listed.
37.	Commercial Dispathches to England.	1788-1792	Vol. I	English	Thick bound ledger-	Brief comment on the discussions of the Board of Trade, Cloth investment, advertisements for cloth specification. To be listed.

					green cover, manuscripts-repaired	
38.	Commercial Dispatches to England.	1788-1792	Vol. IB	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	General letters to England including the proposals of Contract system. May be listed.

Information on the manufacturing process of different cloths, the tools employed by the artisans, bleaching and dyeing processes, etc. can be obtained from secondary sources like *Cotton Painting and Printing in the Madras Presidency* by W.S.Hadaway(vol. 71, 1917), *Journal of Art & Industry*, vols. VII-IX,1831, *Monograph on the Cotton Fabric Industry of the Madras Presidency* by Edgar Thurston (1897)- all these works are available in the Library of Tamil Nadu State Archives and were mentioned in my previous report. I made another attempt to visit the museum of Tamil Nadu to select textile items which could be photographed and used as an illustration for visual display. Unfortunately, the textile gallery of the museum is still closed due to repair works.

Concrete and quantified contributions to Eurindia project

Quantify activities and outputs .

After examining various documents in Tamil Nadu Archives, I recommend the following documents to be included in Eurindia website :

1.	Chingleput District Records	1793	Vol. No.472 D Film No.3962	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Has material on Cotton cultivation by attempted by Popham. It also mentions some religious disturbances between members of velleyer caste and weavers of this region. Letters of Balfour, the English collector, advising inducement to weavers to settle in that region with the facilities of houses and materials.
2.	Chingleput District Records	1793-95	Vol. No.445-446	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	Report of Roger Darwell of caste-wise and occupation wise division of population including the number of artisans -27 September, 1793.
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4	South Arcot District Records	1803-05	Vol. No.111-115	English(Manuscripts)	Micro-films	<u>Vol. 111</u> - has a list of information of textile trade, bleaching, packing, variety, Report of warehousekeepers. <u>Vol. 112</u> - entire roll on textile-exclusive information on the subject. Other volumes have little to provide on the subject.
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					ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	(923-932).
7.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 105 A-931	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Provides scattered information on the English purchases at Ingeram (120-132), procurement of cloth from local weavers, their collection from different centres and mentions different types of textiles exported from there (pp.245-58).
8.	Public Consultations	1771	Vol. 106 B-934	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Has detailed information on transaction with weavers and merchants, prices that were fixed for various cloths, detail of advances, sorting of cloths.etc It also gives information on textile centres and village-wise names in Arnee besides mentioning the number of looms, agreements with peykatts and brokers.
9.	Public Consultations	1772	Vol. 108 A-937	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	This document has information on merchants contracts with local producers, thread supply dealings with weavers. There is also a mention of French advances in this region. (pp.544, 622, 641).
10.	Public Consultations	1772	Vol. 108 B-929	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Deals with the problems of weavers and merchants and textile purchased by the English Company (pp.831-51).
11.	Public Consultations	1774	Vol. 112 - 944	English	Thick bound ledger-green	Has some information on the mode of investment at Masulipattam, regulation for weavers, complaints against weavers (pp.448, 472, 471-76, 493).

					manuscripts-repaired	
12	Public Consultations	1775	Vol. 113B - 945	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired Condition brittle---	Dealing with contract system-experiments, information on cloths stolen from washing places. Conflict pertaining to weavers working for the French. Declarations made to be signed by the English gomasthas (pp.225-29, 318-33).
13.	Public Consultations	1787	Vol. 146A - 17	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Gives information on the supply of cloths, contract for investments, shortage of supply, collection of balances from weavers at Madapollam (pp. 965-67,3021, 3052-53).
14.	Public Consultations	1787	Vol. 146 C -19	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	The second half of the ledger is full of discussion on Cochrane's plan of investment attempting to exclude Indian merchants (p 3510). The ledger gives a list of pieces of long cotton and percales, and mentions supply of thread, musters, investments, procedures, godowns.
15.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 149 A -24	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Proposal of investments and grievances of weavers, high prices of cotton (pp. 1209, 1430-37).
16.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 149 B -25	English	Thick bound	Almost the entire ledger deals with plans of investments and contracts, problems of weavers (pp. 1676-1767).

					ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	
17.	Public Consultations	1788	Vol. 150 A -18	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	This ledger mentions the employment of Indian weavers, by the Europeans, the quantity of cloth manufactured and the response of the French agents (pp.1780-1802).
18.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 155 B -39	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Provides some information on the English Investments and briefly discusses the trade of Palempores for England (pp. 1344, 1400-06).
19.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 156 A -40	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Provides details of supply of cloths from various factories (p.1629) which was exported from India.
20.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 157 B -42	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Gives scattered and brief information of cloths ordered , the Company's investments and losses suffered in course of washing.
21.	Public Consultations	1789	Vol. 157 B -43	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover,	Reports on imorts, market conditions, representation of head weavers, and mention of the shortage of spinners.

					manuscripts-repaired	
22.	Public Consultations		Vol. 158 A & B -44 & 45	English	Thick bound ledger-green manuscripts-repaired	Scattered and insufficient information of textiles. Some details of the cost of manufacture of salem-pores, of thread, labour and weaver's wages. To be listed.
23.	Commercial Dispatches to England.	1788-1792	Vol. I	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	Brief comment on the discussions of the Board of Trade, Cloth investment, advertisements for cloth specification.
24.	Commercial Dispatches to England.	1788-1792	Vol. IB	English	Thick bound ledger-green cover, manuscripts-repaired	General letters to England including the proposals of Contract system.

Possible problems met during the missions

Highlight and justify any divergence and difficulty encountered

The procedure of consulting manuscripts in Tamil Nadu State Archives is very cumbersome and time consuming. This has been brought to the notice of the Commissioner and he has assured that the system would be soon changed.

Other issues

Mention any other issues you deem relevant.
Mentioned in my previous report.



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