

Ed 1 (19/3) Department.

Mr SERIES.

G.O., No. 679

DATED 24 2. 1913.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Panpatete weaving party - Received, with
Remarks, the complaint made by B. Varkoba
Rao, Manager of the Varkoba Weaving
Institute, Salem, against the _____ now
stationed at Salem.



SRI VENKATESA WEAVING
INSTITUTE.

First Agraharam, Salem,
2nd May, 1913.

From, B. Venkoba Rao,
Manager,
Sri Venkatesa Weaving Institute,
Salem.

To
The Secretary,
the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

Sir,

Regarding the weaving demonstration party now stationed at Salem, I beg to offer the following remarks for your consideration.

2. My interest is that of a practical weaver who has put money into the business and who wants to see that fly shuttle loom is extensively brought into use in the country. I have had a practical experience of nearly 10 years in the business, and can therefore speak with some degree of knowledge.

3. My first submission is that the party is not well equipped either with capable men or with the necessary accessories to make the demonstration successful. In the first place, it is not fully carrying out the proposals, referred to in G. O. No. 198, Edl. dated 4.3.13. It has no stock of slays, shuttles, pirns or templets to mention only a few of the ordinary requisites of the weaver, for sale to the public. Weavers who witness the demonstration and who may wish to buy these accessories cannot get them from the demonstration party. A demonstration carried on under such circumstances cannot be effective, and can make no impression.

4. In the second place, the weaver who is in charge of the fly shuttle loom is not an expert, and can hardly stand a test of his speed in weaving. The weavers are able at present to weave in country looms from 2 to 3 yards a day in 60 counts, and unless the demonstrator can weave from 5 to 7 yards the fly shuttle would not at all commend itself. The Superintendent is a mere theorist who has had no practical training. He cannot adjust a slay, nor put up the picker-string himself, and not possessing practical experience, the public prefer to get any explanation they want from the weaver in charge. This man is unable to explain fully the principles of mechanism or give a demonstration of his speed in weaving. The demonstration is a mere children's show in which something is exhibited and seen as a tamasha, and soon forgotten.

5. In the 3rd place, the proposals made and sanctioned in the said G. O. are not of a practical character. There are many difficulties which the Superintendent has not appreciated and attempted to solve them in the notes, embodied in G. O. No. 406, Edl. dated 11th May 1913, he has sought to solve the weaving problem by his simple recommendation to introduce a slay to the country pit looms. He has estimated the cost at 3 to 4 Rs. He has overlooked the fact that the country bamboo shuttles or pirns will not suit this slay. Wooden shuttles and pirns are required, and two posts with arms to support that slay.

The cost in these respects would amount to 10 Rs., and it is not the responsibility of the Government to correct to say that with a slay of 3 or 4 Rs. the weaver could begin fly shuttle weaving.

By
1913

In the demonstration operation, the Superintendent has not chosen to put his proposal into practice by adjusting the simple sley valued by him at 3 to 4 Rs.

The machine exhibited consists of a wooden frame which costs about 60 Rs, a heavy sley valued by the Superintendent of Industrial Education at Rs. 9, English reeds and heads valued at Rs. 9 and shuttle and pins valued at Rs. 1.8-0. The weaver is at first confronted with these costly accessories and is unable to appreciate the speed attainable in a fly-shuttle loom.

6. The Superintendent's proposal to adjust a simple sley to the pit loom is also based on misconception and want of practical experience. The country reed and heads now used by the weavers are made of such flimsy materials that they are only suited for the old method in which the bamboo shuttle is thrown by one hand at one end and drawn by the other at the other end. Experience has shown that the heads considerably snap when the fly shuttle works at high speed and their renewals give frequent trouble and interfere with the work of the weaver. In the country method they last for a year, whereas with a wooden fly shuttle they do not hold on for more than 3 months. Their complete renewal will bring the cost to Rs. 8 a year.

7. Another difficulty with the adoption of wooden fly shuttles for the country reeds and heads is that the evenness of texture in weaving cannot be maintained. In the country method, beaming and rolling up the warp, is not uniform, the tension is unevenly distributed with the result that the threads easily break and retard the progress in weaving. The repair of these breakages produces knots in the woven cloth which therefore compare unfavourably in point of texture with the cloth produced in the country method.

8. The wooden shuttles of English make are too big for the shedding obtainable in the case of country heads. Those made in Washermanpet, Madras, give frequent trouble by the wheels and the axle on which they rest getting out of gear. These shuttles soon wear out and go out of repairs and their replacement and repairs are not easy.

9. The pickers which propel the shuttles through the battens of the sley and the side boards of the shuttle box also frequently get out of order by being hit hard by the pointed steel-ends of the shuttle and the services of a carpenter have too frequently to be invoked upon.

10. The difficulties referred to in paras 6 to 9 can only be got over if economy is a point to be reckoned with, by using English reed and heads, English shuttles and pins sold by Jones Brothers in Bombay and the heavy sley of the pattern sold at the office of the Superintendent of Industrial Education. The difficulty in this case in addition to the heavy cost of the machinery which is beyond the means of many a weaver, is that the reeds intended by the makers to suit 60s counts, are really unsuited. To produce cloth 54 wide in 60 of close fine texture, 3840 ends or threads is enough, but for the number a reed intended for 72s is obviously required. A reed of this description is not ordinarily available and the next higher count reed is that sold for 80s. In this case the number of ends will be 80x54 or 4320 which consider-

ably raises the price of cloth. A weaver using 80s reed for 60s is therefore unable to compete successfully with the man who uses country reeds.

11. The speed in weaving is still an unsolved and undemonstrated problem. The weaving branch of the Department of Industries has not issued any bulletin or pamphlet giving out the results of their experience and knowledge. No experiments have seriously been made to determine the speed in weaving first in the ordinary country loom, andly with the use of fly shuttle and sley adopted with the country reed and heads, 3dly in a frame loom with the use of English reeds and heads, and fourthly with the frame loom fitted up in addition with the automatic take-up motion. I consider it of urgent importance to have definite results authoritatively determined by careful experiment, which may be capable of verification.

12. The warping mill is one of the aims of demonstration proposed and sanctioned in the G.O. already quoted. But the Superintendent has not chosen to put this up in Salem for reasons not explained. My chief objection is to his unqualified advocacy of the use of these Mills. Here also I have to state that the Superintendent has not demonstrated that the use of long warps is felt as a necessity by weavers. In the country, warps of 34 yards length are easily got made by the women of the weavers' household, and this suits his purpose for the present. It is useless, I should say inadvisable, to displace this woman labour by introducing mills at present without finding other suitable work for them. The weaver still prefers to work in his house and he cannot afford to pay additional money for mill-made warps. Apart from the socialistic aspect of the matter, there are other difficulties which as in the case of fly shuttles, have not been appreciated by the Department of Industries and solved. The first difficulty is about their effective sizing. Unless the sizing is good, the weaver is hardly to get any benefit at all. The country sizers would not accept warps longer than 50 yards for sizing and even if they accept, the sizing is so badly done that when warps have been beamed and fitted up in the loom, threads break in large numbers and the weaver has to re-size them. This should considerably retard his progress. Even the country method of sizing the short warps, is no a satisfactory and under the circumstances, it would be useless to introduce a new method, before improvement in sizing has been achieved. Fly shuttle looms have not come into existence to any appreciable degree, and the demonstration of a warping mill before progress has been effected in these respects is simple waste of money and labour.

13. As regards jacquard machines, there is again no data to go by. Our weavers have got their own way of harnessing and it is cheap. Unless the new machine will clearly demonstrate that the outturn can be doubled and that the heavy cost of the machine is worth investment by the prospective profits to be secured, it will also be a failure. There are also looms which have pattern design throughout solid borders only and again there are cloths of fancy borders for one or two inches, and among these there are cloths in the making of which more than two shuttles have to be plied, and unless in all

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(4)

these operations, the jacquard machine will hold its own, its public demonstration is bound to fail in its results, besides involving rightful expenditure of public money. It is highly necessary that actual experiments should be conducted as in ordinary weaving in the manner specified above and the results tabulated for general information. The use of Jacquard machine implies the use of frame looms fitted with English reeds and healds and shuttles and therefore the use of the former would be a condition precedent to the use of the latter. The heavy cost of the machinery will have to be fully justified before the government can think of recommending it to the public.

14. The department should not serve as a Commission agent for the sale of the English made Jacquard machines. That is a work that had better be left to private firms to do. The Singer Sewing Machines have largely come into use in the country without the intervention of Government and similarly the introduction of Jacquard machines can be left to private enterprise, the department concerning itself only with experiments. Besides, the number of weavers in pattern weaving is very small, they do not form more than 5 per cent. of the population. They are comparatively well off in circumstances and a few enterprising of the lot can take to this new venture. But the work of Government is with the average weavers who form the large majority and whose welfare ought to be their prime concern.

15. The above remarks will show that the demonstration as conducted at present, will be more than useless. A highly paid superintendent with no practical knowledge of the business who assumes superior airs, and a set of assistants who are unable to satisfy the ordinary weavers in regard to the superiority of the machines put up for demonstration cannot do much in the business. There are many non-official gentlemen interested in the business, who if their co-operation is solicited, will do much to develop the fly-shuttle system of weaving, and it will be necessary to compose the peripatetic party with practical men of expert knowledge. Intelligent weavers can be secured on higher salaries. They will be of greater use to the public than the Superintendent on Rs. 200 who can only theorise and cannot put his theories into practice. They will be better able to work without such a Superintendent and without unnecessary restraint (which the present superintendent is imposing on his men). If supervision is wanted, non-official gentlemen (i.e. persons who own weaving factories and local officials of the grade of Tahsildars or Deputy Collectors can be easily induced to accept this work. The present system is not producing appreciable results and requires a complete over-hauling. This is my only object in troubling the Government with this letter.

I beg to remain
Sir
your obedient servant
B. K. Subbasingh

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C. No. 1632 SL, from the Manager, S.V., No. 26, 5-1913, dated 27/5/13

Weaving Institute
Salem

Memorandum. No. 1632-1, dated 27/5/13 1913.

Referred to the D.P.S. for remarks.

RS CR
22-57378/5/13

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Noted in CR

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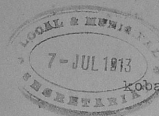
28/5/13

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No. 2097 E

Received 191 , Registered 7.7 1913.

Subject.



Returning, with remarks, the complaint of M.R.Ry. B. Ven-
koba Rao, Manager, Sri Venkatesa Weaving Institute, Salem,
regarding the working of the Peripatetic Weaving Party.

ENCLOSURES

No.

N. Ref on Cur No. 4491 / 13.

Spere copies

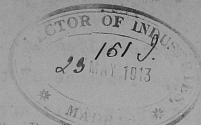
Station M a d r a s , Dated the 4th July 1913.

From (Name) The Hon'ble Sir Alfred Gibbs Bourne, D.Sc.,
F.R.S., K.C.I.E.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,

Madras.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Local and Municipal Department.



Camp Salem
Dated 20th May 1913.

From

M. R. Rv. N. Subramani Iyer,

Superintendent, Peripatetic Weaving Party,

S A L E M.

To

The Superintendent of Industrial Education,

Madras.

Sir,

+ *was not*
informed
I beg to offer the following remarks on Mr. B. Venkoba Rao's letter No. 7 of the 8th instant forwarded to me with your letter No. 151 I, dated 16th May 1913.

Mr. Rao begins his letter by saying that I am freely expressing as my opinion that fly-shuttle weaving will not be a paying business. No statement can be farther from truth and I think it is a statement deliberately made with the knowledge that it is a false. It is absolutely impossible for Mr. B. Venkoba Rao who has known me from the time the Weaving Factory was started in Salem in 1906 to have any mistaken impression regarding my views on the fly-shuttle question. Let Mr. Rao refer to G. O. No. 406 Educational dated 11th May 1912 passing orders on my notes on Weaving and Mr. Chatterton's remarks thereon and say if he does not understand therefrom my views. A copy of this G. O. he took from me and he has also drawn attention to ~~that it~~ *in* the first of his letters wherein he has kindly offered to place his services. In para 47 of my notes I have mentioned item by item the advantages of the fly-shuttle over the country looms and any information that he may require may be had from that G. O. If, however, he sincerely thinks that more information is required from me (and I have very strong reasons to suspect his sincerity) he may find it in my paper on "Weaving" a printed copy of which is sent separately. It is absurd to say that I give any opinion on matters like this privately. In the beginning

of 1910 the then Director of Industries called on me to give my views on a similar question at the instance of the Editor of "Practical Life". A translation of my Tamil article was sent to the Hindu for publication as desired by Mr. Cotton (This will be found in the office records). A few days after he wrote to me about the Retired Tahsildar Ramachandra Rao's interview, Mr. B. Venkoba Rao met me and I then referred him to the G. O. and the article mentioned above. He said that he was satisfied with the reference but requested to be furnished with a copy of my paper which I was then printing. Under the circumstances I am really surprised that he ever thought of writing such a letter. I have ^{only} to repeat what Mr. Tressler observed in his own case (Memo No 46 I, dated 9th April 1913, "He is simply making himself ridiculous by ^{only} ~~saying~~ ^{by} saying to bully me" I may here mention that a few gentlemen of Salem of whom Mr. J. Ramachandra Rao, retired Tahsildar is one, wanted my opinion ^{on the} commercial prospects of the Venkatesa Weaving Institute or the Factory as Rao also calls it, as they made me understand that they wanted to finance Mr. Venkoba Rao, provided they were sure of the success of the Factory. Believing as I did that the enquiries ^{were} "Bona fide" I gave them the conditions necessary for the successful starting and working of a factory (these are contained in my printed paper.) Mr. ^{Venkoba Rao's} institute consists of 4 looms-one of which was not properly fitted at the time of my visit--2 looms had warps but no weavers as they were reported to have run away, so that only one loom was working. The weaver was one of those formerly employed in the Government Factory, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{and} convicted for breach of contract of service. The proprietor of the Factory was apparently annoyed because I gave advice to people who came to me, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{and} seemingly 'Bona fide' motives. I did my duty without caring to see if the advice that I gave would be prejudicial to Rao's interests or whether the gentlemen that sought my advice did so with ~~the~~

mischievous motives. I may here mention that the retired Tahsildar and myself were not on speaking terms for nearly a year previous to my leaving Salem in 1910 and when he spoke to me under the circumstances I naturally thought he sought my advice bona fide. Later proceedings however showed that his enquiries were mala fide. The following additional facts will reveal the motive of Mr. Venkoba Rao in making untrue statements.

As pointed out in my note of the 11th February (in the file) Mr. Venkoba Rao was one of the few men in Salem who attempted to retard the progress of the Salem Factory in its early stages. In spite of him, the factory flourished as the Government ^{was} well aware. This man learned the A. B. C. of Weaving from me in Salem and after he returned to his duty as clerk in the Collectors Office, Madura he got some people to finance a scheme for a Weaving Factory in Madura. He very soon met with difficulties of all sorts in the management of it and having apologised to me for all his mischievous contributions to what he called his paper viz, "The Indian Patriot" he sought my help now and then which I willingly gave, but when I could not send weavers to Madura he grew wild and again criticised the policy of the factory. The so-called factory had ^{eventually} ~~eventually~~ to be closed and the loss sustained owing to Mr. Venkoba Rao's management may be ascertained from the Secretary of the now defunct Madura Industrial Association. He retired, I think, about the close of last year, and a few weeks before his retirement he went to Madras to see me when he took a copy of G. O. No. ⁴⁶⁶ 416 saying that the copy furnished to him by "The Patriot Office" was somewhere mislaid. He then thought that I would be posted to Madura and that he could get the place of Superintendent of the Demonstration Party if I recommended. Accordingly in his letter No. 1 dated the 4th February he kindly offered to place his services at the disposal of the Department provided a competent maistry was given him and took this opportunity to point out the necessity of continuing the good work done by the Government Factory. In his second letter No. 2 dated 16th February 1913 he said that he could get up the demonstration party

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If Government would sanction the employment under him of his Madura Maistry (Vide his letter in original). Mr. Tressler saw through the thing and decided to ignore his letters. After I arrived in Salem on the 1st April, I went to see Mr. Venkoba Rao's Venkateswara Weaving Institute and he then told me that he got no replies to his letters offering his services and that when interviewed Mr. Guthrie he was informed that the papers had been referred to me. He therefore thought that his not getting some job was due to me and he threatened that if I could not soon arrange to give him one (he meant the creation of another party for me) he would petition ^{to} Government and say that the demonstration was an unnecessary expenditure, and if he did not succeed ~~then~~ he would expose the thing in his paper "The Indian Patriot". I said that all this intimidation would be of no avail and if he wanted to do anything he had better not come and tell me all that. A few days later a gentleman of Salem occupying a good official position-evidently a friend of Mr. Venkoba Rao came to me and suggested that if Mr. V. Rao was paid a bonus of Rs50 a month and travelling allowance he would be satisfied and not write to the papers, but this gentleman would not say that the suggestion came from V. Rao, otherwise I would have taken a statement from him. He even went the length of saying that as there would be trouble in giving a pay of Rs50/- to a pensioner getting Rs35/- a month, bonus would be the right thing.

The man (Mr. Venkoba Rao) is actually retarding the progress of my work in various other ways--the instances are too many to be mentioned here. Suffice it to say that he has made ^{some} very unreasonable demands --and he does not call them requests--such as the free loan of the services of one of the maistries for a week, a free gift of a dooby and even a jacquard, if I tell him that these requests cannot

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-5-10
be granted he says that the Government ^{me} is not doing their duty, the demonstration party is not doing their duty and so on and so forth. Sometimes he would way lay the maistries on their way from their Hotels and one day he actually took a ^{maistry} ~~weaver~~ and kept him for half a day at work in his so called factory without my knowledge. He thinks that I should not question him why ~~he~~ he did it without my knowledge. In spite of all the mischief that the man and his friends attempt to do I feel confident that the work of the demonstration party ^{here} will be attended with good results and in course of time the success will be great indeed. In conclusion I pray that a suitable ^{to} reply may be given to him so that he may not continue to play ducks and drakes with me. I request you will kindly place all these matters before the Government if necessary. I anticipated all this mischief before coming to Salem and said so to Mr. Tressler.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. Subramanian
Superintendent.

P.S. I went again this morning with some friends to Venkoba Rao's institute. We could find only one loom with a warp & there was only one man to do all the work--spinning, weaving etc.

N.S.

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N. Ref. on Cur. No. 4491/13, dated ^{4th} July 1913.

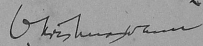
Submitted to Government with reference to Memo No.
1632-1 Educational, dated 27th May 1913.

2. The complaint of Venkoba Rau seems to be frivolous as
will be observed from M.R.Ry N. Subrahmany^a Aiyar's letter. It
is too soon to pronounce an opinion upon the result of the
Peripatetic Weaving party.

3. M.R.Ry. Subrahmany^a Aiyar states that jacquard looms
have been sold at cost price by the weaving party so that the
statement that the party serves as commission agents is not true.

X
I The sale of jacquard looms seems to have been no
part of the original plan of the Superintendent of Industrial
Education and has consequently not received the approval of
Government, Vide G.O. No. 198 Educational, dated 4th March 1913.
The practice seems open to misconception and the orders of
Government as to whether it should continue are requested.

Encl
P.V.S.


for Director of Public Instruction.

C.No.1632, from P.Venkoba Rao, Manager, S.V.Weaving Institute, Salem,
dated 2nd May 1913.

C.No.2097, from the D.P.I., No.4491, dated 4-7-1913.

Subject.

Complaint regarding the working of the
Peripatetic weaving party.

Venkoba Rao, Manager, Weaving Institute, Salem, makes certain complaints regarding the working of the Peripatetic Weaving party, of which N. Subrahmanya Aiyar is the Superintendent. A summary of the complaints is given in para.15 of his letter. The letter was referred to the D.P.I. for remarks, but it does not appear to have been transmitted ^{by him} to the Superintendent of Industrial Education or to Subrahmanya Aiyar for remarks. Venkoba Rao, however, appears to have addressed a separate letter to the Superintendent of Industrial Education; and Subrahmanya Aiyar's letter now forwarded to Government seems to be a reply to that letter. From Subrahmanya Aiyar's letter it will be seen that the complaints of Venkoba Rao are frivolous as pointed out by the D.P.I. ⁺ ~~However~~ ^{the} ~~letter~~ ^{letter} does not deal with the specific complaints of heavy cost and alleged impracticability of introducing slays into country pit looms and the incompetence of weavers employed to demonstrate the higher speed of fly-shuttles. Mr. Tressler is now away on leave and the current duties of the office are conducted by Mr. Velayudasari of the School of Arts. It is submitted that no further action need be taken

p 4 cf

para 1 on p 6 cf

pp 6 to 11 cf

+ para 2 on p 11 cf

pp 14 to 15 cf

Record No

Papers

p 4 c 8

p 11 c 7

I p 3 5 5 80
m 138 28 4-3-13

I of Plant estimates
m 4 5 7 80
195 2d 7 13

at present; no reply need also be given to Venkoba Rao.

2. In paragraph 14 of his letter Venkoba Rao says that the department should not serve as a commission agent for the sale of the English made jacquard machines, as that is a work that had better be left to private ~~shops~~ firms to do. In this connection attention is invited to para.3 of the D.P.I.'s endorsement. The Director requests orders as to whether the practice of selling jacquard looms by the Peripatetic party which seems open to misconception should continue.

3. From paragraph 3 of Mr. Tressler's letter dated 15th August 1912 and Appendix I thereto, it will be seen that though it was considered necessary that the value of jacquard looms should be demonstrated, and consequently the machine was mentioned as one of the ~~plant~~ plant necessary to start work with, it was not included among the plant to be purchased for stock with the party for sale. Numbers of warping mills, slay of different widths and dobbies were entered in the estimate and those were obviously intended for sale, while of jacquard machine only one of each description was put in. In para.3 of G.O.No.198, Edl., dated 4th March 1913, the Government, while agreeing with Mr. Tressler that a small stock of machinery available for sale would materially enhance the practical outcome of the peripatetic party, did not issue any detailed instructions as to what machinery should be offered for sale,

but

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but left the details of the plant to be taken to the discretion of the Superintendent of Industrial Education. Apparently on the strength of this discretion jacquard machines were kept in stock and sold. As those were only sold at cost price and as other appliances are also sold, it is not understood what possible objections could ^{there} be to their being made available for purchase. The introduction of this kind of machinery is considered desirable and the fact that they cannot be made locally renders it, it is submitted, all the more necessary that they should be brought handy to the intending purchasers.

4. The D.P. I., however, states that the practice of selling jacquard looms is open to misconception but does not give the reasons for the statement. He apparently bases his opinion on ^{the fact} that it was not originally intended to stock and sell them; but that does not seem to be a great obstacle as Government did not consider the question of the plant in any detail. In these circumstances it is for consideration whether the practice may be ordered to be discontinued.

NB CR
15.7.13 15.7.13

Sug. port. See 10
Sufficient reason to H. K.
sold the jacquard looms
order to D.P. only.

NB 17

para 3 of Director's letter
page 11 of 4.

cf. para 48 - page 16 of 40622
11.5.13

+ app I in p 4
48 mo 120 2d
4.3.13

para 3 in p 11 of

B4
217

A draft order is submitted for approval

108 CR
21-7-13 24/7/13

11/23/17

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, dated _____ 191_____

” ” ” ” ” 191

C. No. 1632 Ed From the B. Venkata Rao, No., dated 2-5-1913

" " 2097 " " DPL " 4691 " " 4-7-1913

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191

ORDER

Misc

No. 67951, dated 24. 7. 1913

Recorded

2. The Govt. see no sufficient reason ^{present} to direct the discontinuance of the sale of ~~the sale of~~ Jacquard looms by the Peripatetic Weaving party.

128 02
21-7-13 22/7/13

11F-2817

8. 21/7/13 July 13 21-7-13
 Mr. P. J. (ass)

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____ } 19
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
 19 _____

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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 P = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.

A A A A A A A