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Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 423, 28th March 1918

Ancient Monuments

Passing orders on the proposals of the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, for the prevention of wanton damage to — of archaeological interest selected for conservation by the Archaeological Department.

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G.O. No. 423, 28th March 1918

Ancient Monuments

Passing orders on the proposals of the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, for the prevention of wanton damage to — of archaeological interest selected for conservation by the Archaeological Department.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Southern Circle.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Madras, the 17th November 1917.

No.—643.

I have the honour to state that from a perusal of the annual reports on the condition of ancient monuments selected for conservation by Government submitted by the Public Works Department and from personal observation and inquiries made during my inspection tours, I find that a certain amount of wanton damage to ancient monuments preserved at Government expense annually occurs. The nature of the damage in question is as follows :—

- (1) The removal of stone and bricks for private building purposes.
- (2) The removal of iron work, fencing, gates, locks and bolts and wooden notice boards.

(3) In cases where an old temple is no longer in use as a place of worship, it is a common custom for the local villagers to use the site as a dumping ground for rubbish and also as a public latrine.

In order to try and prevent further damage of this kind I would suggest that each Superintendent of Police be supplied with a copy of the revised Standard List of Ancient Monuments for this Presidency and that local police inspectors and constables be instructed to try and check this form of wanton mischief and waste of public funds.

II

Memorandum No. 1470-B-2, Home (Education), dated 29th December 1917.

With reference to his letter No. 643, dated the 17th November 1917, suggesting that police officers may be instructed to try and check certain amount of wanton damage at present caused to ancient monuments of archaeological interest preserved at Government expense, the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, is requested to report whether the orders issued in G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, do not sufficiently answer the purpose.

It is suggested to the Superintendent that he should invariably bring all cases of such wanton damage to the notice of the Collectors concerned.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.

III

Letter—from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey,
Southern Circle.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Mahabalipuram, the 25/28th January 1918.

No.—45.

As requested in Memorandum No. 1470 B-2, Home (Education), dated the 29th December 1917, concerning the conservation of ancient monuments, I have the honour to report that the orders issued in G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, refer mainly to the preservation of movable antiquities of archaeological interest, such as sculptures and inscribed stones. The kind of wanton damage to ancient monuments that I am anxious to prevent as far as possible is that mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3 of my letter No. 643, dated the 17th November 1917, and in my opinion, the local police, where and when they are available should be instructed to assist the tahsildars and village officers in the prevention of such damage. At present the Police Department does not know, which ancient monuments are Government property, or which buildings have been selected for conservation by Government and therefore they are not in a position to offer assistance of any value as matters now stand.

Order—No. 423, Home (Education), dated 28th March 1918.

It has been brought to the notice of Government that a considerable amount of wanton damage is being done to ancient monuments of archaeological interest selected for conservation by the Archaeological Department. Stones and bricks are removed for private purposes, while fences, gates, locks and bolts and notice boards are removed or destroyed.

Collectors of districts are accordingly requested to see that due attention is paid to the instructions to village officers contained in article 32 of Chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual and that prompt reports of all instances of mischief of this kind are submitted by village officers so as to ensure the detection and punishment of offenders. The responsibility to tahsildars and revenue inspectors should be enforced and due notice taken of failure on the part of village officers to realize their responsibility.

Orders will issue in the Public Works Department instructing the subordinates of that department who are in charge of ancient monuments to make an immediate report to the police of any cases of injury to the buildings or their appurtenances.

(True extract)

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
„ all Collectors.

Copy to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent of Epigraphy.
Public Works Department.
„ Revenue Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 423, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 28TH MARCH 1918

[SUBJECT.—Prevention of wanton damage to ancient monuments.]

Previous papers :					
G.O.	754, Public,	2nd Sep. 1904	G.O.	505, Public,	11th June 1910
„	848 „	8th Nov. 1905	„	630 „	16th „ 1911
„	17 „	18th Jan. 1906	„	1277 „	13th Oct. 1913
„	211 „	19th Mar. „	„	360 „	21st Mar. 1914
„	438 „	10th June „	„	85, Home (Edn.),	19th Jan. 1917
„	516 „	12th July „			

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No. 643, dated 17th November 1917.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The real point of Mr. Longhurst's suggestion to invoke the agency of the police is to facilitate the detection of offences committed in respect of ancient monuments selected for conservation by Government. That the offences are punishable either under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, if the monuments are declared 'protected' under the Act, or under the Penal Code, if the monuments happen to be Government property, has already been made known to the public by means of notice boards affixed to them—G.O. No. 630, Public, dated the 16th June 1911. (It is not possible for the Government to enforce any penal provision in respect of private monuments in the conservation list unless they are declared 'protected'.)

2. Instructions have also been issued to the effect that local officers of the Public Works and Revenue Departments should do everything in their power to prevent the destruction of or damage to such monuments. The duties of village officers in this regard are put in the following terms in chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual:—

“1. Village officers should see that no inscription slabs or ancient temples or other ancient buildings are destroyed by contractors and others for building purposes. (Section 32 of chapter V of the “Village Officer's Manual.”) The managers and owners of such ancient remains should be asked to take care that no injury is done to them.

“2. It is the duty of village officers to see that all archaeologically valuable ancient monuments and remains are carefully preserved. They should duly intimate to the Tahsildars any intended demolition or defacement of ancient buildings, inscriptions or other antiquities in private possession which may come to their knowledge. No excavation of ancient sites or mounds should be permitted until the orders of Government have been obtained thereon.”

Collectors have been requested to remind the village officers of their duties mentioned above [G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated 19th January 1917].

3. Evidently Mr. Longhurst wants to provide better safeguards than are ensued by the above arrangements. It is however very problematical whether much good can be expected by resorting to police aid as suggested by the Superintendent. For many of the monuments are in out-of-the-way places where Police Inspectors and constables have not frequent opportunities for patrol. If this watch over monuments is to be effectively attended to, it must be made part of the Police officers' duties which of course is impracticable.

4. In the foregoing circumstances it is for consideration whether Mr. Longhurst may be told that the Government are unable to accept his proposal.

E.A.V.—27-11-17.

T.K.—28-11-17.

There seems to be no harm in providing additional safeguards for the proper preservation of monuments, etc. Public Works and Revenue subordinates have no doubt been already charged with the duty. Experience has shown that all that is needed has not been secured by this arrangement alone. Additional safeguards, if they could be arranged for, would be welcome. Police subordinates do go out on patrol duty to villages in outlying parts also. If during this patrol, they come across any monuments, which they know to be such, they may look round to see whether any defilement or damage has been done to it. This work is not likely to add much to the ordinary work of the Police. They will have only to bring the matter to the notice of their own officers or those of other departments. Before we consider the proposal further, we may send the file to Inspector-General to ascertain whether he has any objection to urge against the Superintendent's proposal.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-11-17.

I think that the proposal is impracticable and will lead to no appreciable result. It seems to be enough if the Revenue authorities impress on the village officers from time to time their duties in this matter.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-12-17.

A draft order is submitted. If approved it may issue after acceptance by Revenue.

E.A.V.—3-12-17.

T.K.—7-12-17.

C.R.—8-12-17.

R.R.R.—10-12-17.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

W.K.—13-12-17.

Accepted in Revenue.

G. H. JACKSON—13-12-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to issue.

T.K.—14-12-17.

C.R.—16-12-17.

R.R.R.—18-12-17.

First please ask Mr. Longhurst whether Government Order of 19th January 1917 meets his point? and suggest that he should always bring cases of such neglect, as that of which he complains, to the notice of the Collector concerned.

P[ENTLAND]—19-12-17.

A draft memorandum is submitted with reference to His Excellency's orders supra. It may be noted that the Government Order No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, makes specific reference only to *moveable* antiquities;

The last sentence of the Government Order covers immovable structures also. | whereas the damage referred to by Mr. Longhurst is being caused to immovable

R.R.R.—28-12-17

structures of archaeological interest and the fixtures forming part of such monuments which are preserved at Government expense.

E.A.V.—20-12-17

T.K.—21-12-17.

The latter portion of the Government Order is in general terms however. The draft memorandum may issue.

C.R.—25-12-17.

R.R.R.—28-12-17.

[Memorandum No. 1470 B-2, dated 29th December 1917.]

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No. 45, dated 25th January 1918.

From Mr. Longhurst's letter read above it is obvious that he does not consider the orders in G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, to be adequate for the purpose he has in view. The case may now be circulated to His Excellency with reference to his note on the previous page.

E.A.V.—30-1-18.

C.R.—31-1-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—1-2-18.

The letter does not explain how, when the Revenue Department including the village officers has already been instructed, advantage arises in issuing instructions to the Police—especially in these days of stations with extensive areas.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—2-2-18

Under my instructions, the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor has kindly conferred with Mr. Longhurst, who agrees that instructions to the Police under present conditions on the lines which he had contemplated would not serve the purpose in view. Mr. Longhurst is concerned and anxious in regard to the increasing amount of damage which is evident as being done to public monuments, and to such things as notice-boards, railings, turnstiles. I suggest that it might be well to draw the attention of Collectors to this. It seems to me that the Secretary might well take an early opportunity of personally conferring with Mr. Longhurst in order to frame the proposed communication to Collectors.

P[ENTLAND]—6-3-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—7-3-18.

Submitted for orders whether Mr. Longhurst should be requested by telephone to call at the office and if so at what day and hour. It has been ascertained that Mr. Longhurst who returned from camp this morning will be in the station till the 12th instant, on which date he proposes to go on tour again.

C.R.—9-3-18.

C.R.—9-3-18.

Please telephone: "Reference your No. 643, dated 17th November 1917, about Police help in conservation of monuments. I wish to confer with you. When and where can I meet you?"

R.R.R.—12-3-18.

Telephonic message—from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Southern Circle, Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 12th March 1918.

I have postponed my tour to Guntūr until to-morrow. I shall be glad to see you at any time to-morrow convenient to yourself at the Secretariat.

There is the Council to-morrow. As the Superintendent is going away to-morrow, it may probably be better if he goes over here to-day.

C.R.—12-3-18.

I can always spare him a few minutes. Please telephone: "Thanks for your message. Please come up to the Secretariat any time to-morrow between 11-30 and 3."

R.R.R.—12-3-18.

I saw Mr. Longhurst this morning as the Secretary was in Council. He has given up the Police idea altogether. What he wants to stop is the constant pilfering of such things as fence-wire, notice-boards, iron stay-band on monuments and the like. These are Government property and the local village munsif is responsible for them.

The reason, however, why detection and punishment of this sort of offence has been so rare in the past is that the offences have never been promptly reported. As Mr. Longhurst admits, his own subordinates are mainly to blame for this and also the subordinates of the Public Works Department who are in many cases in charge of such things. Mr. Longhurst is to bring the point to the notice of his own subordinates. We may perhaps circularize Collectors again on rather fuller lines; and the file may then go to Public Works Department with the request that they will similarly circularize such of their men as are in charge of archaeological relics and their appurtenances, emphasising the necessity of instant information being given.

H. BROWN—13-3-18.

The draft already approved by the Secretary has been amplified with reference to the notes above and is submitted for approval. If approved, it may be sent to Public Works Department for acceptance.

E.A.V.—16-3-18.

C.R.—19-3-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—19-3-18.

I would have liked to have had a talk with Mr. Longhurst on a subject in which I am personally keenly interested, but when he called at the office I was in the Legislative Council and Mr. Hilton Brown saw him. I do not think, however, I could have advanced the discussion of the present subject further, had I seen Mr. Longhurst, and I therefore submit the draft order for approval.

I should like to say that the conservation of antiquarian remains is a subject which should interest, more than it does at present, the revenue officers of Government one or other of whom may be found touring on any given day in some part or another of a district. I am sure they would take more interest if they knew where to find these objects. We have Mr. Sewell's two volumes of *Antiquarian Remains in the Madras Presidency*, which are most informing so far as they go: but a good many objects have been discovered since those volumes were published. Mr. Longhurst's list is merely a list of monuments selected for conservation, i.e., for expenditure by Government; and in Nellore district, for instance, according to it (page 10), there are only five monuments; but the antiquarian objects of interest in a district are to be counted by hundreds and very few people knew where they are to be found. All of them do not cost money to look after; but without any one to care for them they are gradually passing out of view.

If districtwar lists of such objects were compiled and circulated to district officers, divisional officers, tahsildars and revenue inspectors there would be every chance of the objects being looked after and preserved intact. Such a list would also be the means of hitherto unrecorded remains coming to light.

Reading rooms are to be found in every town and many of the big villages in the Presidency. Extended notices of objects of interest in the locality, prepared by local enthusiasts, could be made available to the public at these reading rooms and a person in search of antiquarian remains would know where to seek information. The co-operation of the public in the conservation of remains and the study of inscriptions could be secured in this way. I have always suggested this as a fit subject of study and discussion to reading rooms, but the great majority of them do not know where to obtain lists of objects in the district or locality which are deserving of study and investigation from an antiquarian point of view.

If it is thought worth while to republish districtwar extracts, brought up to date, from Mr. Sewell's *Antiquarian Remains*, the subject will be separately examined.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—20-3-18.

I am to attach a revised draft which His Excellency considers more suitable.

His Excellency approves of the question of districtwar extracts being separately examined.

T. E. MOIR—27-3-18.

[G.O. No. 423, Home (Education), dated 28th March 1918.]

Order

P.S.

No 423 dated 28.3.1918.

Ancient Monuments

Passing orders on the proposals of the Supdt. Arch. Survey for the prevention of wanton damage to _____ of archaeological interest selected for conservation by the Arch. Deptt.

It has been brought to the notice of Govern-

ment that a considerable amount of wanton damage is being done to ancient monuments of archaeological interest selected for conservation by the Archaeological Department. Stones and bricks are removed for private purposes, while fences, gates, locks and bolts and notice boards are removed or destroyed.

Collectors of districts are accordingly

requested to see that due attention is paid to the

instructions to village officers contained in article

32 of Chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual and

that prompt reports of all instances of mischief of

this kind are submitted by village officers so as to

ensure the detection and punishment of offenders.

The responsibility of Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors

should be enforced and due notice taken of failure on

the part of village officers to realise their respon-

sibility.

Orders will issue in the P.W.D. instructing

the subordinates of that department who are in charge

of ancient monuments to make an immediate report to

the police of any cases of injury to the buildings

or their appurtenances.

The Supdt. Arch. Survey.

All Collectors

Copy to A.A.S. of Epigraphy

" P.W.D.

" Revenue Deptt.

N.A. for E.T.

LWS
27.3.18

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DATED 28TH MARCH 1918

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2 NOTES TO G.O. No. 423, HOME (EDUCATION), 28TH MARCH 1918

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NOTES TO G.O. No. 423, HOME (EDUCATION), 28TH MARCH 1918

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5 NOTES TO G.O. No. 423, HOME (EDUCATION), 28TH MARCH 1918

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His Excellency approves of the question of districtwar extracts being separately examined.

T. E. MOIR—27-3-18.

[G.O. No. 423, Home (Education), dated 28th March 1918.]

PRESS SLIP.

ORDINARY.

REFERENCE.

URGENT (→)

Name (Edn) DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 2023 dated 29. 1. 1918.

G.O. No. 423, dated 28. 3. 1918.

(b)

Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence 6
(b¹) Notes 14

Brief subject Ancient monuments.

(c) Number of copies required when struck off (not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press).	(b) E. 1. copies to supply requisitions for purchase by the public.	Complete correspondence and orders.	Notes.
FOR RECORD.*			
Madras Records ...	4	15	10
Ooty Records ...		4	4
For filing with original ...		1	1
Total ..		20	15

FOR ISSUE.†

Signature copies.	Letter only.	Complete G.O.	(b) Special issue copies of G.O.		Notes
			No.	Papers.	
India Office.....		30			
Govt. of India.....Dept.					
Revenue Department.....		12			
Public Works Department.....		263			
Local and Municipal Department.....					
Educational Department.....Dept.					
Public Dept.....					
Judicial Dept.....					
Political.....					
Financial Dept.....					
Marine Dept.....					
Ecclesiastical Dept.....					
Total ..					
Spare copies					
The S. A. S.		6			
The A. S. S. for Propaganda.		3			
The Mr. S. S. S.		259			
The In parusal.		10			
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
Total ..		382			

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECRETARIAT.

(a) If a paper is marked to be printed urgently, the Superintendent of the section concerned should sign the Press slip. The Superintendent should exercise a careful discretion in the matter.

(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b¹) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for one week, and larger papers for two weeks only. The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

* Copies distributed on (Press Clerk.)

† Copies distributed on (Press Despatcher.)

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A
Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

B
Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.

C
As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (b) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval at once.

Type may be released after usual interval.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

Supdt.

Supdt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on.....	
First proof furnished on.....	
Call for revised proof received on.....	
Revised proof furnished on.....	
Corrected proof received for striking on.....	
Final copies supplied on.....	

Account of copies.	Complete copies.	Notes.	Issue copies.	Special E.T. edition.
Supplied to Secretariat for Record.....				
" " " Issue.....				
" " " for Extra E.T. copies to supply requisitions for sale to the public.				4
For Volumes.....				
For supply to newspapers and institutions admitted to the privileges of the E.T.				
Total ...				