

Recd & kept

Home (1917) Department.
Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1258
DATED 14. 12. 17

1258

INDEXED

(6)

7-8-1917

[Despatch Abstract.]

Migration - Federated Malay States.

Recording petition from certain Kanganis working in the Sungasala estate, Negri Sembilan, Federated Malay States, containing allegations of ill treatment meted out to them.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

Home (misc) no. 3988
7-12-17

P.S. 4-600-22-10-17.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.

3/1258

Memo. No. *513-P*



Transferred to the Secretary to Government, *Home (mis)*

Department, for favour of disposal.

ENCLOSURES :

(By order of His Excellency the Governor.)

Letten

Private Secretary.

MADRAS,
The 6th December 1917.

51217-
4/1258
To

His Excellency The Governor of Madras,
Madras.



May it please your Excellency,

The humble petition of the undersigned Kanganies
of Sungusala Estate, Port Dickson, in the State of
Negri Sembilan, F.M.S.

Most respectfully sheweth,

That the Petitioners with due respect and profound sub-
-mission beg leave to lay the following to your Excellency's
sympathetic consideration.

1. That there are 150 Tamil coolies, including Kanganies in the
above Estate.
2. That here adult males are paid 40 cents and females 25 cents a
day for all kinds of work, whereas in other Estates, Store coolies
are paid 50 cents, Tappers 45 cents, weeders 40 cents, and females
30 cents a day.
3. That out of this poor wages in the months of September and
October the Manager deducted from their wages amounts which came to
the fraction of a Dollar on the excuse that there is no small
change available.
4. That for overtime work (evening) work done, though the Manager
promised to pay @ 25 cents, it is being paid only at 20 cents
and in these also amounts less than one Dollar were not paid on
the same excuse, and in these instances when the coolies or the
Kanganies dared to complain, the Manager abused them in indecent
language and drove them away. Whereas in other Estates for such
overtime work payments are made at 30 cents.
5. That there is a conductor (a Tamil) kept by the Estate who is
is quite unsympathetic with the coolies so as to tell them 'that
if you like you could remain or go away, it is all the same to
me for the Manager is prepared to pay me though you remain, or not,
and ~~owing to his harsh treatment~~ the Petitioners venture to state

that owing to his harsh and indifferent treatment more than 50 coolies (new arrivals) bolted since of late. 9/25/8

6. That there is a Sundry Shop run by the Estate Manager two hands being engaged at Dollars 40/- and 12 per month.

7. That in this Shop things are supplied to on order from the Manager and deducted on pay day. The prices charged are quite exorbitant (ie) white sugar 18 cents a katty, Brown sugar 17 cents, where as in Port-Dickson which is only 8 miles from the Estate and on the main road, these are charged only 16 & 12 cents respectively for a katty. Cooly Tobacco is sold at 80 cents a katty at Port Dickson 60 cents, and in the similar manner every article.

8. Rice is charged 40 cents per Kandong whereas in other Estates 2 (three) Kandongs are supplied for a Dollar.

9. That since the establishment of this Shop the Manager who was in the habit of paying small cash advances to coolies for provisions has entirely stopped it and is now only issuing orders to the said shop where things are charged at such unreasonable prices.

10. That there are two cooly lines in this Estate, and for one there is a well and an unserviceable Pump is put in there, which stands there only for name sake and has never even for a day been found in working order. The other line having no well or water close by the coolies have to go a distance of 5 to 8 chains and that for dirty Pasa water (Swamp) which the coolies under the circumstances are compelled to drink.

11. That there is an Hindu Temple (built long ago) and though in other Estates 100 to 150 Dollars are paid for the upkeep not even a single cent is paid by this Estate.

That in bringing the above to Your Excellency's kind and sympathetic consideration Petitioners submit that once after leaving their native land on the hope of earning, and passing their future in a better state, and when they are in a strange country with strange surroundings, and when the present prices of food stuff (the mere necessities of cooly life) have generally increased to nearly 50 % over the normal rates, and is still going up, (owing to the war) when it is the duty of every Employee to encourage thrift and be sympathetic to the labourers, we would commend to your Excellency to consider to what miserable state they would be reduced to, under an unsympathetic Employee who throws at them cups, saucers, or cigaret tins, &c. or

whatever that he finds handy when approached with a view to make any representation and detest them as venomous reptiles coupled with a conductor, who though a Madrassee, tries to imitate his masters ways, may often excels, in his imitation, and when toiling under such difficulties and hardship even wanting the ordinary comforts of human life, when Petitioners are allowed to be allowed to be bled (by running an Estate Shop) for the benefit and extravagance of others who are in a better state, in every way, and helpless and innocent as they are have none but Your Excellency to approach, prostrate themselves and pray that an immediate ^{inquiry} be caused to be held and redress granted.

For which the Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Port Dickson

23rd. Nov: 1917.

Sgd. Padayachy R

.. Mottayan

M. Asamy ..

Kuppusamy

Murugan

Sengan De

Mooken De

Arunasalam

Perumal

Ramasamy

Veeran

Vadivalu

Kuppu Kavun

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Home (Misc) Dept.

emigration - 2. M. S. $\frac{7}{1258}$

from the P. S. of 513. P. of 6. 12. 17.

U.S.

The petitioners are Kanganies working in the Sungasala estate in the 2. M. S. and Complain of low wages they get, high price of articles demanded by the estate shop-keepers, and the unsympathetic behaviour of the estate manager and Conductor. The law on the subject of wages and the general state of affairs in the 2. M. S. are described in paras 22 & 33 of Messrs. Marjoribanks & Marakkar's report. It does not appear that a strong case has been made out for the interference of the Madras Govt in the matter and the allegations being more of a local nature should be suitably dealt with by the Labour Dept of the 2. M. S. Further the general question of emigration to Malaya is under reference to the Govt of India. If the above view is accepted, the papers may be recorded. A draft order is subd.

AR
8.12.17.
Hes.
13/12/17

[Handwritten signatures]

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took up.

880 416
26.4.17 X

15/11

8/25

Receiving from ¹²⁵⁶ Recording ~~papers~~ ^{papers} containing ~~articles~~ ^{articles} allegations or ill-treatment notes sent to Certain Kangaroo's working in the Sungasala estate, Negri Sembilan 7. M.S.

[illegible]

READ ALSO:—

C. No.; From the O. S. E., No. 5130, dated 6.12.1917

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 19

ORDER.

No. 1258, dated 14. 12 1917.

mine

Recorded

AR
8.12.17
Pee
13.11.17

ed. *[Signature]*
12/2/77
[Signature] 12/2/77