Rev (Spl) Dept

Sectt. II—48—21,640–19-1-17.

Home (1917) Department.

(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. Nos. 397-98.

DATED 23-4-1917.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigration - Assam.

Requesting the Assam Administration to arrange for the repatriation of two coolies now working in Tea Estates in Assam.

1/

R.F.D.—80 *e*—3,367—20-8-13.

2

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Received REGR. CHIEF SECT. 18 JUN 1916 MADRAS GOVT. 191 . *Registered* CURRENT NO. 3784 PUBLIC 191 .

CCN 19/6

Regd 19-6-16.

Subject.

Requesting that certain persons who went to Allynaggar Tea Estate may be permitted to return to their village.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 2

Spare copies

No. 759 D/Mag

Station Nellore, *Dated the* 10th June 1916.

From (Name) Diwan Bahadur R.Ramachendra Rao, Esq., B.A.

(Designation) District Magistrate of Nellore.

To the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.
Judical Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice that one Budamaguntla Subbayya, a Christian and a resident of Uppaladinne, a village of Kandukur taluk of this district, presented a petition to me in January last representing that the marginally noted five coolies were sent to Allynaggar, Assam, with garden sirdar Ravinuthula Kondayya, that the period of agreement executed by them was three years, that it was

pp 3-4 infra

1. Budamaguntal Peda, Subbayya (petitioner's eldest son)
2. Do Chinabasavayya (petitioner's 2nd son)
3. Do Kotayya (petitioner's younger brother)
4. Kommula Chenchamma (petitioner's sister.)
5. Do Narasamma, daughter of No. 4.

three

cf. Section 5(3) of the Act.

three months since it had expired, and that some people who had gone there died as the water and climate did not suit them as they were also put to many difficulties, and requesting to be informed whether they would or would not be returned to their villages. He also ---- brings to notice that they were promised the payment of a lump grant of Rs. 3 per head per mensem after the expiry of the agreement period. The petition with English translation is herewith submitted.

pp 3-4 infra

pp 5-6 infra

2. A copy of the report of the Tahsildar of Kandukur who enquired into the matter is also submitted herewith. It will be seen therefrom that the petitioner also went to Allynaggar, that after a stay of 10 or 16 days there he returned to his village as a sirdar, and that on account of the difficult work to be done there he did not recruit coolies. From the precis of the statements recorded by the Tahsildar from the returned emigrants, it will be seen that complaints are made of unhealthiness of surroundings in Assam. It is also represented, and it is also probably true, that sirdars hold out false promises but it is noteworthy that some of the persons enquired by the Tahsildar are themselves sirdars and actually recruited coolies. None of these are now sirdars.

pp 7-11 infra

at Allynaggar

pages 7-11 infra

3. Ravinuthula Kondayya is no longer a sirdar.

4. The petitioner requests that his relations noted in para 1 may be permitted to return to their village and in fact the only object of the petition is to secure this. I request that enquiries may be made, and if the persons concerned desire to return, they may be allowed to do so.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

15/1/16.
For District Magistrate.

V.K. 15.1.16

16

No 57 Mag Office

COLLECTOR
NELLORE
28 JAN 16

మహారాజశ్రీ

[illegible]

25.1.16

[illegible]

5

4

Translation of the petition.

-----0-----

The five undermentioned coolies were sent to Allynagar Sylhut District, Assam, with garden sirdar Ravinoothala Kondayya.

1. Budamguntla Peddabasavayya.
2. Do Chinabasavayya.
3. Do Kotayya.
4. Kommula Chenchamma.
5. Do China Narasamma.

The period of agreement executed by them is three years and it is three months since it expired. We have represented to the Collector though two or three petitions, but we have received no reply. The Tahsildar of Kandukur once took a statement from us and we have had no orders. We have again sent a petition to him. No reply has been received. We are again presenting a petition. If the records are perused, the names of the coolies and the sirdars in Allynaggar may be known. We are put to much anxiety on axxx account of our children. We have already represented the difficulties to which they are put in that country and the deaths which ~~occoured~~ occurred in consequence of the disagreement of the climate and the water of that country with their constitution. We have received no reply. We request to be informed whether they will or will not be permitted to return to their villages. If it is not possible to get them back, we must give up all hopes. We are not acquanted with their language not they ours. They made us believe the following through a servant of theirs who knows both the languages and got an agreement executed. They said thus:- " Each man's earnings belong to himself. In addition to this, each cooly would be paid in a lump after the expiry of the agreement period Rs. 3 per mensem per head for ~~being~~ having come from other countries. Then you may may go to your country". All that is not realised now. They are threatening them that they would never be sent to their country and are exacting work unjustly and they are being guarded by watchmen. We request that our children may be sent back to us.

For District Magistrate.

V.K.

15.6.16

Copy of report of the Tahsildar of Kandukur dated 5-4-16.

In resubmitting herewith the petitions of ~~Basamgunta~~ Budamgunta Subbaiah of Uppaladinne bearing your endorsements dated 6-1-16 and 15-2-16, I beg to state as follows:--

2. Three years and four months ago, the petitioner and the marginally noted persons emigrated ~~xxx~~ to Allyhaggar (Assam). Ravinuthula Kondayya of Nenurpad was then the sirdar. The petitioner says that he and his relations were told by the sirdar that they could get back to their country at any time, that relying on him, they went to Allynaggar that there the ~~x~~ work to be done consisted of hard work of digging earth, and cutting tea leaves, that wages available was after all ~~xxx~~ 3 annas per male cooly and 2½ annas for female cooly if they completed one day's full work, that he remained there for 10 or 16 days, that he was sent back to this country as a sirdar, that as the work in Allynaggar was difficult, he did not recruit, that he wrote to one Nenurpad Seshadu 5 or 6 letters and got no replies at all, that he was told by some people that have returned that his people fell ill, were beaten if ~~t~~ they did not work, were given more work than they could do and suffered hardships in other ways. He wants that the five persons referred to by him should be returned as the 3 years' period of agreement is over.

1. Petitioner's eldest son Budagunta Pedda Basavayya then aged 18 years.
2. Do's 2nd son Budagunta China Basavayya then 11 years
3. Do's sister. Komale Chendramma then aged 40 years
4. Komale Chendramma's daughter Narasamma then aged 10 years
5. Petitioner's younger brother Budagunta Kotayya then aged 26 years.

3. On a report made by me on a similar petition in October 1915, the previous Deputy Magistrate directed that I should visit all the villages where the sirdar attempted to procure coolies and shouldmake ~~a~~ detailed and exhaustive enquiries. This I have now done. I have also visited the villages where coolies have returned ~~for~~ from Allinaghar and ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ examined them as to the treatment they received there.

4. The sirdar Ravinuthala Kondayya says that he recruited coolies from Kamepalli, Uppaladinne, Nenurpad of this Taluk.

A list of persons so recruited as per his version is ~~xx~~ noted in the margin. Of these Nos. 3, 5, 6 and 7, 8 & 11 returned. 8 is the petitioner. From the statement of others, it is found that 3, 4 and 5 of the list referred to in para 1, one Patibandla Naraya of Kamepalli and some more were recruited by Ravinutala Kondiah. Patibandla Naraya has also returned.

Kamepalli
1. Ravinuthala Narayya
2. do Yellamma
3. do Kotiah
4. do Narasiah
son Kondayya
5. Patibandla Subbiah
6. do Nagayya
7. Audemma
Appalaswami
8. Badamagunta Subbiah
9. do son Basavayya (S Elder)
10. do son Basavayya (younger)

Nenurpad
1. Kolakalur Bhushanam

5. The purport of the statements given by the returned emigrants is noted below:--

1. Patibandla Nagadu, Patibandla Subbadu Patibandla ~~Ma~~ Mariya, Patibandla Audi, of Kamepalli say that on a hope held out by the sirdar that they would get each 6 annas or 8 annas per diem ~~axxx~~ as cooly and that they would return in 6 months, they went to Allynagghar, that thay as a fact were offered there 3 annas cooly a day, that females could not earn that amount but would get only 2 or 2½ annas ~~axd~~ day, that water and food did not suit them, that fevers are common, that if any persons suffering from disease went to the hospital they were ~~xxxxxx~~ driven back to the work with the remark that they feigned illness, that for short work the employer and his servants used to beat them with sticks, that the cooly given was too insufficient for food and clothing, that they never got any letters from their country, that even if received, they were not delivered to them, that the employers do not know the language of the coolies and vice versa, that when they said that they wanted to go back after 3 years, the "Dorai" said " You cannot go , we got you like cattle", that they fell ill and escaped from Allyhaggar without any body's knowledge, that they had no money but begged and got into the steamer and returned to this country a month ago.

2. Ravinuthala Kotiah of Kamepalli confirms the above and says that he went to Allynnaggar on false hope held out by the sirdar that he stopped there for two months, that he was sent back to this country, as sirdar, that he also sent 4 coolies to Allinaggar, that he was not beaten by the employers but was shut out of work for one day.

3. Kolakalur Bhushanam of Nenurpad says that he went to Allynaggar 3 years ago, stopped there for nine days and returned as sirdar, that he sent up 3 coolies, that he did not witness any hardship so long as he was there, that his brother is still there, that he got a letter from him two years ago, and that he has not heard anything from him since.

6. I note below the purport of the statements given by some others who were recruited by others than Ravinutala Kondiah and who have returned.

1. Wesipogu Narsigadu of Ravulakollu says that he went to Allynaggar 2 years ago and that he returned to this country in the beginning of march 1916 with a license to recruit coolies, that work in Allinaggar is difficult to do, that it consists of digging pits in gardens and cutting tea leaves, that 6 annas is the wages per diem, that no disease generally attacks coolies, that there is a hospital where gratis treatment is given, that when coolies go there they are well treated, that only when coolies put on false pretensions they are beaten and abused, that the petitoner's people are all doing well there, that they have no money to help them to come back, that letters if received, are delivered to coolies, and that coolies there are illiterate and do not write letters to this country. He however adds that it is no advantage to go to that --- country, while equally well here the coolies could get on.

2. Kolukulur Nagayya of Nenurpad says that he went to Allynaggar 4 years ago, that he stopped there for 8

10

8 months, that seeing the difficult nature of the work there, he returned to this country with a sirdar license, that 3 years ago he wrote a letter from Allynaggar to his father describing the evils, that that letter is not now traceable, that coolies are beaten for slackness in work, that coolies suffering from illness are also compelled to do work by beating and that fevers attack them and that it is difficult to earn 3 annas a day.

3. Kolakalur Kotamma of Nernurpad says that she went to Allynaggar 3 years ago, served out 3 years and returned recently as a sirdar, that she was first told by her recruiter that she would get 6 annas a day, that it is not possible to earn more than 3 annas a day, that water and climate do not suit the coolies, that fevers attack them, that short work due to illness is not excused, that coolies are beaten, and dragged into the work, that cooly is too insufficient to keep body and soul together.

4. Kolakalur Chenchaiah of Nernurpad who went to Allynaggar 4 years ago and who returned recently as a sirdar says almost like Kolakalur Kotamma referred ~~toxx~~ to above.

para 3 above

6. Guntuti Poladu of Bitragunta says that he went to Allinaggar 3 years ago on the promise held out by his sirdar that he would get 12 Rs per mensem, that he returned to this country two months ago with a sirdar's license, that 3 annas is the cooly per diem per male or female, that water does not suit coolies in the foreign country, that they got fever, that coolies are beaten for short work, that letters received are not given to them or contents made known, that the petitioner's younger brother No. 5, his two sons (1 and 2) are doing well there, that his sister (3) ran away with somebody, back to this Country ~~to go~~ to Anakapalli, that it is in no way more profitable to go to that country leaving this country.

---

11 7

1. Budamagunta Kotamma }
2. Budamagunta Chinna Ramappa } Sister and mother-in-law
3. Konchala Samuel of Nernurpad
4. Kolakalur Subbarayudu of Nernurpad

7. I also examined the marginally noted persons who are relations of some of the coolies that still work in Allynaggar. I and 2 say that no letters are received in this country. No 2 says that his brother in law and wife's sister went to Allynaggar 3 years ago, that he was in the habit of writing letters to them once a month till August 1915, that he got no replies to any of the letters. No. 3 files a letter said to have been received from Allinaggar which is enclosed for perusal. It is a letter written to No. 3 by his two younger brothers and two sisters and two brothers-in-law who are working in Allynaggar. It is not dated. The cover in which it was received is not traceable. It runs as follows:--

> My dear brother xxxx
>
> Here we suffer from a lot of difficulties. We suffer for want of food and clothing. We are not able to do this work. We pray that you get us back somehow. Though we make several attempts to get out, our 'Dora' does not leave us. Our hardship is indiscribable. You don't know--God knows it. Perhaps we are not destined to see you all. First they said "Six months". Then they said "one year". Then they said" three years" These periods are gone. We are anxious to see our county and you all. But it is impossible to come back. Our difficulties are dreadful. Pray speak to big authorities and get us back"

No. 4 says that he does not get any letters from his wife and daughter who are in Allynaggar but he would add that he also does not write to them.

8. The statements of enquiry and report returned are enclosed with a list. (Not forwarded to Govt.)

15/6

For District Magistrate.

15.6.16

12

8

(ch 3784)

Public dept

Letter 3784-1 d 4.7.16.
Rfu.

To

The Second Secretary to the
Chief Commissioner,
Assam,
Shillong

with copy of pp 1-2 c F
+ pp 3-11 c F in original)

Despatched [illegible]
5/7

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a letter from the D. M., Vellore, No 759 D (Mag), d/ the 10.6.16, and the enclosures thereto in original, on the subject of the repatriation of certain Coolies now working in the Allynugger Tea Estate, Assam. The Govt in Council will be glad if the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Assam will arrange to have the five coolies mentioned in para 1 of the D. M's letter referred to above repatriated if it is found on enquiry

pp 1-2 ef

that the periods of their engagements have ~~already~~ expired and ~~if~~ they ~~the coolies~~ ~~they~~ are unwilling) to serve any longer. I am also to request that, with the permission of the Hon the Chief Commissioner, ~~the necessary~~ such enquiries may be made into the allegations of ill-treatment, ~~of coolies~~ the non-delivery of letters, ~~complained of~~ ~~to which the Tahsildar of~~ [illegible] ~~refers in his reports~~ as may be deemed necessary.

AC

29.6.16.

CPM
1.7.16

E.h.
3.7.16

4.7.16.

~~C&F~~ (with copy of pp 1-2 C F)

Copy to the Chairman, Assam Labour Board for information

Despatched
5/7

14

10

ICN

Assam Labour Board.
Block B-3,Clive Buildings,Calcutta.

REGR. CHIEF SECT
19 JUL 1916
MADRAS GOVT.

No. 3273.

4442
PUBLIC

From

Lt. Col. W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E.,I.A.,
Chairman, Assam Labour Board.

Regd 19-7-16

UNDER SECRETARY'S
19 JUL 16
PUBLIC & REV. DEPT.

To

The Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,
Shillong.

Dated the 15th July, 1916.

pp 12-13 ante

Sir,

With reference to letter No.3784-1 dated the 4th instant from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Department, to your address, (a copy of which has been forwarded to this Board) in regard to the repatriation of certain coolies of Nellore district, now said to be working on the Allynugger Tea Estate in Sylhet, I have the honour to state for your information and for such action as may be deemed to be necessary, that Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co., Agents for the Allynugger Tea Estate, to whom my Board referred this case, have favoured us with the following note:-

> "We have perused the letter dated 4th instant from the Government of Madras and the copy petition from Budamaguatta Subbayya, enclosed therein praying for the repatriation of five relatives of his said to be employed on Allynugger TeaEstate.
>
> "If a copy of the Petition, which contains statements of alleged facts, is sent us we shall have pleasure in forwarding same to the Garden Manager for enquiry and report. If the coolies referred to wish to return to their country there will be no difficulty about their repatriation."

A

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
SD/- W.M.Kennedy.
Chairman,
Assam Labour Board.

2.

Memo No. 3274. Dated the 15th July 1916.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Department, Ootacamund, for information.

Chairman,
Assam Labour Board.

16

12

No. 4695 G

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

IMMIGRATION BRANCH.

REGR. CHIEF SECT. 27 JUL 1916 MADRAS GOVT.

CURRENT NO. ~~171~~ 46.36 PUBLIC

Regd 27.7.16

From

The Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham, I. C. S.,
Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Department, Ootacamund.

UNDER SECRETARY 27 JUL 16 PUBLIC

Shillong, the 21st July 1916.

Sir,

pp 12-13 ante

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3784-1, dated the 4th July 1916, on the subject of the repatriation of certain coolies said to be working in the Allynugger Tea Estate in this Province, and to say that enquiries are being made into the matter, the result of which will be communicated to you for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

For the w.s.

Submitted for perusal.

The final reply may be awaited

27.7.16.

27.7.16

28.7.16

[illegible]

---

17 / CM 134 [illegible]
15/8/16
13

11-8-16
August

[illegible]

Abstract translation at p 9 infra.

[illegible]

Abstract translation
of petition at pp 1-8 C.F.
11.8.16.

Petitioner Kudamaguntala Subbayya, a Christian and a resident of Uppaladinne village requests that orders may be passed on his petition praying for the repatriation of his sons and relatives now working in the Allynugger Tea Estate in Assam as the periods of engagement have expired.

Ms 1203
15.11.16

20
15

E. B. & A. Schedule V(A), Form No. 32A.

No. 7077 G.

General DEPARTMENT.

Immigration BRANCH.

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
15-NOV-1916
GOVT. OF MADRAS

FROM

The Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham, I. C. S.,
SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSONER OF ASSAM.

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home Department (Miscellaneous).

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS
15-NOV-1916
HOME DEPARTMENT

Shillong, 11th November 1916.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 4695 G., dated the 21st July 1916, on the subject of the repatriation of certain coolies now working in the Allynugger Tea Estate in this province, I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a copy of the papers noted in the margin, and to say that the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the allegations of ill-treatment are unfounded, and that no grounds have been shown in which the garden could be required to repatriate the remaining coolies at its own expense. The coolies, are, however, free to return to their homes if they can arrange to do so.

p 16 cf.

1. Letter No. 460, dated the 23rd August 1916, from the Sub Divisional Officer, Maulvi Bazar, with the statements of the Manager and the coolies.
2. Memo. No. 1221 J., dated the 8th September 1916, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of letter No. 254T., dated the 19th September 1916, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts.

~~pp 21-22 cf.~~
pp 23-25 cf.
~~p 23 cf.~~
p 25 cf.

2. The original enclosures to your letter No. 3784-1, dated the 4th July 1916, are returned.

~~pp [illegible] cf.~~

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

A. W. Botham

Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

D. C. J. P. (Chief Secretary) P. O. No. 569—5,500—21-10-13.

21/16

Copy of letter No.460, dated Maulvi Bazar, the 23rd August 1916, from the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

With reference to your Memo. No.319-J., dated August 3rd, 1916, with enclosures with regard to the repatriation of certain coolies now working at Alinagar T.E., I have the honour to say that I made a local enquiry into the matter at Alinagar T.E. on the 12th instant., and recorded the statement of Mr. Reid, the Manager of the garden, and of Komula Chenchamma and that I sent for Buda-Maguntal Kotayya from Champarai T.E. where he is at present working and recorded his statement on the 18th instant. Copies of these statements are sent with this letter.

x Buddamaguntla

Of the coolies whose repatriation is asked in the petition of Budamaguntal Subaiah, only Komula Chenchamma, Budamaguntal Chinabasavayya and Komula Narasamma are at present in Alinagar T.E. Chenchamma is a widow woman. Chinabasavayya is her minor brother and Narasamma her minor daughter. Kotayya a man of about 20 years of age was transferred from Alinagar T.E. to Champarai T.E. some 3½ years ago and Podabasavayya absconded from Alinagar T.E. some 8 months ago on the expiry of his agreement.

From the statement of the coolies it will appear that the charges made against the management of the garden, of oppression and ill treatment are entirely repudiated; and from my own experience I can testify to the fact that I know of no garden in which the standard of treatment of the labour force is higher than at Alinagar or on which the medical and other arrangements are more adequate and efficient and no Manager who is more sympathetic in his treatment of his coolies than Mr. Reid. A reference to Mr. Reid's statement will show the special measures taken by him for the benefit of Madrassi coolies generally. I have also examined the Harizi book of Alinagar garden with special reference to this

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this class of labour and can certify that they are regularly paid and on the same terms as other cooly labours. Chenchamma is a woman of poor physique and is employed on light works in the lines. She is naturally not paid as highly as a healthy woman employed in harder tasks; but she is paid regularly and receives her wages whether sick or well. The allegation ~~that~~ with regard to the detention of letters by the management of the garden is utterly false. As a matter of fact the Post Office Authorities deliver letters direct to the coolies.

The fact is that Madrassi labour (and especially Madras~~s~~i Christian from the Nellur District) is not a success in gardens in the district. The climate is very different from that of their own country, and especially soon after their arrival in a garden they suffer severely from fever and other diseases. Their language is unintelligible both to the Manager and to the rest of the labour force and the other coolies look down on them as savages. Like most new ~~ele~~ coolies they are taught to regard the tea district as an earthly paradise when a minimum of labour will produce a maximum reward; and like other coolies they are disappointed. Other classes of labour usually settle down and are quite happy in the garden; but the special linguistic and climatic disadvantage of the Madrassis serve to keep them permanently discontented or to be more accurate homesick. The coolies examined express a desire to return to their country. The Manager of Alinagar has no desire to keep on the garden any cooly who desire to leave; and he has recently repatriated at garden expense a family of Madrasi Christians about whom he was in correspondence with the Labour Board. He is not however willing to repatriate any more coolies at the garden expense; and as these are far from being cases of improper recruitment, he cannot be required to do so. For Government to act in the matter would be a most unfortunate precedent which would involve endless expense.

We must verify this
15/11

I would therefore recommend that Budamaguntal Subaiah be informed that his allegations against the gardem management have been found to be false, but his relations are free to return to their country if he will bear the necessary cost.

23
17

The original enclosures sent with your Memo. are returned.

Memo. No.1221 J.,
Dated Sylhet, the 8th September 1916.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, Silchar, with reference to his Memo.No.5000, dated 25th July 1916. I agree in Mr.Sankey's recommendation.

2. The original papers are returned.

Sd/- J.E.Webster,
Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

Statement of Mr.Reid,
Manager of Alinagar.

The coolies present are Chemchamma (woman) Chinabasavayya her minor brother and Narasamma, her daughter. Of the other coolies Poddabsavayya absconded some 8 months ago after the conclusion of his agreement; and Kotayya went to Champabari T.E. in 1913. It is not true as far as I am aware that any letters addressed to coolies are not delivered. The letters are delivered direct from the Post Office. With regard to the five coolies under enquiry none have ever been refused admission in the Hospital. They have never been beaten or otherwise ill-treated. Chemchamma gets her pay whether she works or not; she is an inferior cooly and does not get full haziri. She is employed on sweeping and clearing up round the cooly lines. Some five months ago I repatriated a family of Nellur Christians at the request of their relatives in their country, which was forwarded through the Chairman of the Labour Board. There is a special cook and a special Hospital in their own lines of Madrassi coolies. The children are all specially fed and a special care is taken of children whose parents have died. The garden has spent far more money in looking after these coolies than any other class, I find that they get sick more often than coolies of other classes specially soon after their arrival in the garden. I have never received any complaints from any of the five coolies under enquiry. 15 or 16 Nellur coolies absconded during the cold weather. I do not consider them a satisfactory class of cooly and I am not recruiting any more of them. I am perfectly willing to let these other coolies go but I do not consider that the garden should bear the cost of their repatriation.

Sd. G.C.Sankey,

S.D.O.

Statement of Kotayya.

My brother's name is Subbayya. Sansaya was Sirdar who recruited me to Alinagar garden. I do not know the name Kindayya My sister Chamchamma is in Alinager T.E. I have been for three years and a half in Alinagar T.E. I am a christian. I am under agreement. My brother sent no letter to me. I have not written any letter to my brothers. I want to go to my country as I am not married. I did not know what sort of work I would have to do, so I came to the garden. I have asked for leave but have not been given it. I got my pay regularly. No one beats me or otherwise illtreats me. I get medicine when I am ill.

Sd. G.C.Sankey,

S.D.O., South Sylhet.

Statement of Chemchamma.

Subbaya was my elder brother. Kotayya is my younger brother Poddabasavayya is the son of Subayya my nephew. My husband died in my country before I was recruited. I am not happy in the garden. I am not happy because I have other children in my country and I want to rejoin them. I am under agreement; I have received Rs.7/- so far; the agreement is for one year. I took the agreement because I wanted the advance. I have never approached the Manager asking him to allow me to go to my country. I have received a letter from Sabbayya asking me to go to my

---

country. I have not answered it. I go to the Hospital when I am ill I am taken care of there. I am given pay when I am ill and I am not driven out to work. We are ~~Christ~~ Christians. 18

Sd. G. C. Sankey,

S.D.O.

Extract of paragraph 1 and 2 from the letter No.254T., dated the 19th September 1916, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, to the Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to refer to Mr.Smith's Memo. No. 4566-G., dated the 17th July 1916, on the subject of the complaint of certain coolies now working in the Alinagar Tea Estate, and to submit for the orders of Government a copy of a Memo.No.1221-J., dated the 8th September 1916, from the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, covering a report from the Sub Divisional Officer of South Sylhet who held a local enquiry. The papers received in original with Mr.Smith's Memo.are returned.

p.237

2. The Deputy Commissioner has not forwarded copies of the statements recorded by Mr.Sankey, and I have asked that these may be supplied. I have however known Mr.Reid the present Manager of Alinagar for many years, and have no hesitation in endorsing Mr.Sankey's testimony to the standard of treatment of the labour force at Alinagar and to the sympathetic management of Mr.Reid.

* * *

Scott. II-8 (e)—20,005—18-1-16.

CP
20/xii

(ct 3784)

Home dept
(Mis)

Memo 3784-29 19·12·16

With reference to his letter, no 759 D/Mag dated the 10th June 1916, forwarding a petition from one Budamaguntla Subbayya, a resident of Uppaladinne in the Kandukur Taluk, the D. H Nellore is informed that the petitioner's allegations of ill-treatment of certain coolies in the Allynugger Tea estate in Assam have on enquiry turned out to be unfounded ~~been proved false~~ that the coolies mentioned in the petition are free to return to their homes, but that they cannot claim to be repatriated at the expense of the estate. The D. H is also informed that the Govt see no sufficient reason for repatriating the coolies at the expense of the State either

SAR.
19/XII

Vide p10 of notes
& p20 of C.F

He is requested to report after enquiry whether the relatives of the emigrants are willing to bear the cost of repatriation.

18.12.16.

E.M. 19.12.16

To
The D. M. Nellore.
(O Only).

Copied
~~C.O.K. 12~~

Recd & despd
21.12.16.

Cr. No. 1141 Mis

C.F.—29.

Home (mis) DEPARTMENT.

Received 29-MAR-1917 191 . Registered 29. 3 1917.

Subject.

Reporting about the repartriations of Coolies from the Allinagar Tea Estate in Assam.

29-MAR-1917

ENCLOSURES.
No.
Spare copies

Ref. No. 2839/Mag.

Station Nellore., Dated the 26th March 1917

From (Name) Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Row, Esq., B.A

(Designation) District Magistrate of Nellore.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) Department.

Sir,

pp 26-27 ante

With reference to the Government Memorandum No.3784-2 dated 19th December 1916, I have the honor to state that Budamagunta Subbayya (guntta?) therein referred to agreed to pay Rs.80 for the repatriation of the marginally noted × five coolies and that he deposited a sum of Rs.30 in the Kandukur Sub Treasury on 15-3-17 for repatriating Nos.2 & 3, viz., Budamagunta (guntta?) Chinna Basavayya and Budamagunta (guntta?) Kotayya. I request that orders may be issued for their return.

× vide reverse.

2. Two others, Ravinuthala Perayya and Budamagunta Chinna Ramayya have also agreed to pay Rs.150 on account of

~~7~~ 4/29

Home (Emig.)

of the charges of repatriation of some of their relatives that they have not yet credited any money into the treasury. As soon as money is deposited by them the further report will be submitted.

Budamagunta Peda Basavayya.
DO China Basavayya.
Do. Kotayya.
Kommala Chenchamma.
Kommala China Narasamma.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

For District Magistrate.

s.v.s. 27/Mar.

2-6-16

12.6.16

21

[illegible]

[illegible]

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR
JUN 1918
MADRAS

Note for the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

Petition marked A is from Budamaguntla Subbayya of Uppalathimmy, Kandukur taluk, Nellore District, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras. It is full of repetitions and therefore a gist containing the main points thereof is furnished below .-

Five persons (whose names are mentioned in the petition), who are related to me, were sent to Allinagaram, Sylhet District, Assam to work in the plantations.

The agents preach to such coolies that the term for which they should undertake to serve is really one year only, that the the Collector would ask them for an agreement for 3 years, only to test their decision, and that they should not hesitate to give an agreement for three years when called upon by the Collector to do so. The coolies credulously believe this story of the agents and give an agreement before the Collector to serve for a period of three years, though the Collector expressly tells them that it will be binding on them, that none that ~~were~~ are not prepared to serve for 3 years need undertake the service. They are thereupon sent to Assam and are not let off after one year in accordance with the assurances of the agents, nor after three years in accordance with the terms of the agreement. On the other hand they are told that they have been bought up by the planters and are therefore bound to serve for life. They then realise the situation, and many try their best and effect an escape, while the others that are detected are kept under guard, roughly ~~hawled~~ handled and constrained to work. Some even succumb to the cruel treatment.

The five persons above referred to were sent to Assam under such circumstances and are not allowed to return to their ~~houses~~ homes though they have completed three years of service.

This is a very cruel practice whereby persons are separated for life from their kith and kin. I pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to take this representation into your kind consideration and direct that the said five persons should be repatriated.

2. Petition marked B, appearing in the same hand, bears upon similar facts and closely resembles that marked A. The petitioner is Budamaguntla China Ramiah, a Christian resident of Kamepalli, Kandukur taluk, Nellore district. He prays for the repatriation of 9 persons (named in the petition) who are related to him, and are serving in the plantations of Assam.

Dealt with seperately
T.C.
18-7-16.

3. Translation of petition marked C is herewith furnished.

not recd

C Bhanumurti
Telugu Translator to Government
30.6.16

(ct 3784)

Public dept

Not to Mr

Page 2 CF.

Memo of

With reference to para 2 of his letter no 759 D/Mag d 10.6.16 in which he brings to notice that it is probably true that sardars hold out false promises, the D. M. Nellore is informed that he should himself take suitable action to prevent such irregularities in future on the part of sardars. His attention is drawn to clauses 10 & 11 of part II of Notification appended to G.O. no 289 Pub d 21.3.11 and also to the instructions issued in G.O. 230 Pub d 10.2.16.

W

E

29.6.16.

1.7.16

3.7.16

To
The D. M. Nellore (O. M. only).

Public dept.

Emigration - Assam

(ct 3784) From the D. M. Nellore No 759 D/Mag d 10.6.16

For the U. S

The D. M. of Nellore forwards a petition in Telugu (with an English translation) from one Budamaguntla Subbayya, a resident of Uppaladinne, Kandukur taluk, in which he asks for the repatriation of five coolies now working in

pp 5-6 C.F. Allynugger Tea Estate in Assam. It is pointed out that it is three months

p 5 C.F. since the period of service originally agreed upon, viz, 3 years, has expired and that the coolies are unwilling to work any longer. The Tahsildar's report shows that the coolies have

Portion K at p 9 C.F. no money to help them to come back. As pointed out by the D. M, the object of the

Para 4, p 2 C.F petition is to secure the repatriation of the Coolies. Submitted that the Chief Commissioner, Assam, may be addressed in the matter. Recently the Chairman, Assam Labour Board, who was addressed in a somewhat similar case, addressed the Chief Commissioner, Assam, stating that the treatment of coolies on the estate was one beyond the competency of the Assam Labour Board to investigate.

2 Allegations of ill-treatment of coolies.

PP 7-11 C.F.

It will be seen from the report of the Tahsildar of Kandukur forwarded by the D.H that most of the coolies who have returned from the estate of Allynugger complain that the employers compel coolies to work against their will ~~colleagues~~ even after the expiry of the period of their original agreement for service, that they are beaten for short outturn during illness, and that letters intended for them are not delivered to them. It is not known how far these allegations are true. The Chief Commissioner, Assam, may be asked to make inquiries into the truth of these allegations also.

3 The D.H states that it is probably true that sardars hold

27

Para 2, p 2 CF

hold out false promises to coolies. Submitted that the D.M can check the irregularities of sardars by cancelling the licence of the local agent to whom the sardars are accredited and who is responsible for preventing to the best of his ability all misconduct on the part of sardars. Recently in a somewhat ~~same~~ similar case the D.M. was told that he himself did not excercise the necessary control over the actions of the local agent and his attention was drawn to clauses 10 & 11 of part II of the notification appended to G.O. no 289 Pub d 21.3.11. Instructions have also been issued in G.O. no 230 Pub d 10.2.16 that all Magistrates should excercise very great vigilance over the proceedings of licensed recruiters. Submitted that the D.M's attention may again be drawn to the orders referred to above & he may be informed that he should excercise proper control over the activities of the local agent & sardars.

Clauses 10 & 11 at p 5 of G.O. 289 Pub 21.3.11
W

W

L

Para 3, p 2 CF

4 It may be noted in this connection that the sardar who recruited the coolies ~~on~~ by giving false hopes is no longer a sardar.

NOTES.

5 A draft letter to the Chief Commissioner, Assam and a draft O.M to the D.M. Nellore are submitted for approval.

29.6.16.

S.

[I do not think the O.M. need issue. The letter may with advantage be sent through the Chairman of the Assam Labour or he may receive a copy.]

Jayer
~~CBU~~
1.7.16

not to issue
P.R
4.7.16

⊕ A copy may go to the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board for information

CWL
5.7.16

4.7.16.

(⊕ Despatched on 5.7.16 - please see page 13 C.F.)

UNDER SECRETARY
4 JUL 16
PUBLIC ETS DEPT

pages 12-13 C.F.

[Issued as Letter 3784-1 Pub d 4.7.16]

pp 14-15 F.

From the Chairman, Assam Labour Board No 3278 dated the 15th July 1916.

For the w.d

A copy of the letter addressed by the Chairman, Assam Labour Board, to p 5 C F the second Secretary) to the Chief Commissioner of Assam is submitted for information.

A at p 5 C F. The petition referred to in the note of Messrs Duncan Brothers & Co has been sent in original to the Admn of Assam and it is presumed that that Admn will take necessary action in the matter. The receipt of a reply) from Assam may be awaited.

20.7.16.

CPM
20.7.16

EAH
21.7.16

p 6 C F From the Second Secretary) to the Chief Commissioner of Assam No 4695 G, d the 21st July 16.

For the W.S

Submitted for perusal. The final reply) may be awaited.

T.C.N
27.7.16.

C.P.K.
27.7.16.

E.A.H. 28.7.16.

pp 7-8 C F. Petition from Beedamaguntala Subbayya d 11.8.16.

For the W.S

Please see the abstract translation of the petition at p 9 C.F. It appears unnecessary to inform the petitioner of the action already taken by Govt in the matter of the repatriation of the coolies. The D. M. Nellore will inform the petitioner in due course when final orders issue.

19.8.16.

Pdek 22.8.16

23.8.16

pp 20-25 cf [1203] Letter from the Second Secy. to the Chief Commr. Assam no. 7077 G. of 11. 11. 16

E.S. 1/ Please see this Govt's letter to Assam on pages ~~11-12~~ 12-13 cf. It will be observed from the Assam Govt's reply (pages 20-25 cf.) that the allegations made in Budamaguntla Subbayya's petition as to illtreatment and non-delivery of letters to the Cooly Emigrants are not true and that the coolies whose repatriation was asked are anxious to return to their villages for one cause or another. (p 20 cf. p 22 cf.) The manager of the tea estate concerned is also not against their return. (p 22 cf. pp 22 cf.) The only point — perhaps the most difficult to solve — is as to who should bear the expenses of repatriation.

28.11.16

2/ The Authorities in Assam find that the cases of these coolies can not be said to be cases of improper recruitment (p 22 cf.)

and that it will be creating a bad precedent if Govt. interfered. On the other hand there is the admitted fact that the coolies had been ~~[illegible]~~ "taught to regard the tea district as an earthly paradise where a minimum of labour will produce a maximum reward", and that presumably the Coolies have not been able to lay by even a few rupees to cover their return passage after more than three years service.

p22cf.

p22cf.

3/ Subsection (3) of Secn. 161 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act VI of 1901, as amended by Act VIII of 1915, gives power to recover the expenditure incurred in the repatriation of labourers from the employer only in cases coming within the meaning of Subsections 1+2 of the Section. It is doubtful whether the present case can be treated as a case of wrongful recruitment which would come within the meaning of those Subsections.

[illegible]

4/ If Govt. come to the conclusion that the present case is not a case of wrongful recruitment so as to oblige the Employer to pay the expenses of repatriation a draft order is subd. for consideration

22.11.16.

24.11.16

I should like to know the terms of the agreement; at the end of the 3 years they can leave the estates. But can they claim repatriation at the expense of the estates?

E.A.H.
28-11-16.

For the U.S.

The case linked with this file has been dislinked & will be subd separately
Pded
7/12

Why? Let me
See it EAH
8 12 16

Terms of the agreements.

The terms of the agreements will be available from the register maintained by the registering officer concerned, under section 69 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 and rule 3 of the rules issued under section 163 of the Act - vide Form No.3. It is for consideration whether the D.M., Nellore, may be asked to obtain and forward copies of the forms in which the terms of the original agreements of the emigrants in question have been noted.

× vide flag S.

ⓧ vide flag ×.

P

2. Repatriation at the expense of the estates.

The emigrants concerned can claim repatriation at the expense of the estates, only if it can be proved that they were wrongfully recruited - vide section 161 of Act VI of 1901. There is no provision in the Act under which emigrants lawfully recruited can claim repatriation at the expense of the estates, on expiry of the periods of their engagements. It is apparently intended that such emigrants should lay by a part of their monthly wages to cover the cost of their repatriation. In the present case the emigrants have presumably not done so. It is not known whether the relatives of the emigrants, if any, in Nellore, may not be able to bear the cost of repatriation of the emigrants.

T.C.N./1.12.16
Pded 7-12-16

5. It seems impossible to insist on the repatriation of these coolies at the expense of the Estate. Conditions however are clearly unsatisfactory as p 22 of the c.f. shows. There seems to be a case for asking the Chairman, Assam Labour Bd to undertake a general enquiry into the conditions of the Madras coolies in Assam &c & to make a recommendation as to their continued recruitment & employment & if so under what conditions; it may prove desirable for this Govt at its own expense to repatriate such coolies as wish to return at the expiry of their contracts but are unable to do so; and to prohibit further recruitment from this Presy. Before making any representation to the Board, I wd first call for copies of the original contracts made with the coolies if available, as suggested at P a p 8. If approved, the request may be added to draft as para 2.

E.W.
12.12.16

I would deprecate action on these lines unless it is a very strong case

I do not think that there are any strong reasons for asking for a general ~~e~~ enquiry. The H. M. has of

Consul to be informed that the allegations of ill treatment [illegible] have on enquiry been proved false. It may be pointed out to him that the coolies are free ~~willing~~ to return, but that they cannot be repatriated at the expense of the State; nor can the process for bringing them back at the expense of the State. Are ~~not~~ the relatives of the emigrants willing to bear the cost? The D. M. should enquire and report. Please issue it as a D.O. reference, not as a G.O.

15/12

SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS HOME DEPARTMENT 15-DEC-1916

Rd 16/12

For the W.S

A draft memo is submitted for approval.

18.12.16.

19.12.16

pp 26-27 CF [Memo No 3784-2 of the 19.12.16]

p 28 CF. From the D.M of Nellore, Ref No 2839/Mag, d the 26.3.1917.

For Secretary)

p 28 C.F The A.G may, it is submitted, be asked to place the sum of Rs 30 deposited by Budamaguntha Subbayya at the disposal of the Assam administration who may be asked to arrange for the repatriation of the two coolies Budamaguntha Chinna Basavayya and ~~Kotayya~~ Budamaguntha Kotayya.

2 A draft order and a draft letter are submitted for approval. Orders regarding the repatriation of other coolies will have to issue only on ~~receipt of~~ further intimation from the D.M of ~~the~~ Nellore that the required

money has been remitted to the Treasury

4.4.17.

19.4.17

18.4.17

Drafts approved. I presume Rs 30 will cover the expenses of repatriation of two persons

22.4.17

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS
23-APR-1917
HOME DEPARTMENT

Sectt. II—19 (a)—7-2-16.

Home DEPARTMENT.

(Mis) 37

Emigration - Assam

Requesting the Assam Administration to arrange for the repatriation of two coolies now working in ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Tea Estates in Assam.

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

" " " " ......, " 191

I From the D. M of Nellore, No 759 D/Mag, d the 10.6.16

READ ALSO:—

II Letter No 3784-1, Home (Mis), d the 4.7.16

C. No. ......, From the ......, No. ......, dated 191

III From the Second Secretary to the Chief Commr of Assam, No 7077 G. d the 11.11.16

" " ......, " " ......, " ......, " 191

IV Memo No 3784-2, Home (Mis), d the 19.12.16

V " " ......, " " From the D. M. of Nellore, " Ref No 2839/Mag, " d the 26.3.17

ORDER. No. 397, dated 23.4. 1917.

Mis

Budamagunta Chinna Basavayya and Budamagunta Kotayya.

The Assam Administration will be requested to arrange for the repatriation of the marginally noted coolies from Assam. The A. G is requested to place at the disposal of the Assam Administration the sum of Rs 30 deposited by Budamagunta Subbayya ~~being the amount required~~ for the repatriation of the coolies.

2 The following letter will be despatched to the Assam Administration :-

To,
The D. M of Nellore (G&O)
Despd CD 25.4.17
The A. G. (a 2 V G Govt &O)
Despd a+V CD 25/4
Copy to the Chief Commr of Assam. (O only
omit in address entry
(To be sent as enclosure to following letter)
Despd with Encls CD 25.4.17

4.4.17 P de R 18.4.17

19.4.17

22

Letter
No 398 d 23.4.17

x (letter only)
[illegible]
23/4

Despd with a Copy
of G.O. 397 Home mis
23.4.17
CO
25/4.17

To

The Second Secretary to the
Chief Commissioner of Assam
Shillong

with a Copy of G.O 397 Home (Mis), d the 23.4.1917.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter no 7077 G, General Dept., d the 11.11.16, on the subject of the repatriation of certain Coolies now working in ~~the~~ tea estates ~~Allynuggur Tea Estates~~ in Assam, I am directed to state that, Thiruvalatin Budamaguntla Subbayya has deposited a sum of Rs 30 in the Kandukur Sub Treasury ~~being the amount required~~ for repatriating two of the coolies viz Budamaguntla + Chinna Casavayya and Budamaguntla Kotayya ⊗ I am to forward a copy of the proceedings of this Govt No 397, Home (Mis),

p 20 CF

+ He is in Allynuggur Tea Estate
p 21 CF

This cooly is working in Champarai Tea Estate
para 1, p 21 CF

---

d the 23.4.1917, in which the A.G., Madras, has been asked to place the sum at the disposal of the Assam Administration and to request that, with the permission of the Hon the Chief Commissioner, necessary arrangements may be made for the repatriation of the two coolies mentioned above.

Fu
4.4.17
Pdek
18.4.17

E.W.H
19.4.17

22/4/17

When given for copying
When copied 25.4.47 191 .
When examined
When signed 25/4

READ AGAIN G.O. No. , DATED
191 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. A A A A A A A

LETT OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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Q = Copy heading only.