

Government of Madras

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 545, 6th June 1917

Emigration--Malaya

Directing that the number of emigrant labourers authorized to be shipped to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females) of over eighteen years of age.



21-5-1917

மாநிலக்

அலுவலர்

Government of Madras

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 545, 6th June 1917

Emigration—Malaya

Directing that the number of emigrant labourers authorized to be shipped to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females) of over eighteen years of age.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917.

ABSTRACT.—Authorizing the Superintendent of the Federated Malay States Government Emigration Depot at Negapatam and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements to ship up to a total of 70,000 adult male emigrant labourers during the calendar year 1917.

II

Letter—from the Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated—the 26th April 1917.

No.—1465/1917.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 25th instant, in the following words (as decoded) :

“ Please telegraph when may reply be expected to 1008/1, dated 4th April 1917, regarding arrangements decided by this Government for giving effect to restriction of emigration to Malaya.” and to inform you that I have this day replied thereto by telegram as follows (as decoded) :—

“ Your letter of 4th April regarding emigration missent Singapore reply despatched yesterday. Hope you will suspend restriction of emigration to Malaya pending further consideration. Information contained in reply will show numbers proposed by Government of Madras insufficient.”

2. I would request you to be so good as to address your letters to me as follows :—
Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

3. Your letter of the 4th instant being addressed to the Chief Secretary to High Commissioner was wrongly redirected to Singapore and delay was thereby unfortunately caused and a mail lost.

III

Letter—from the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

To—the Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

Dated—Ootacamund, the 16th May 1917.

No.—902-3.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 26th April 1917, I am directed to state that a copy of G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917, authorizing the shipment of emigrant labourers to Malaya up to a total of 70,000 adult males during the calendar year 1917 was despatched to your address on the 14th instant. It will be observed that no

FURTHER

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம்

பாதுகாப்பு (Pr1) பிரிவு

செப்பனிட்டவரின் பெயர் : ரெ. சுகிருஷ்...

ஆவணத்திலுள்ள மொத்த தாட்கள் : 21

செப்பனிட்ட முடித்த நாள் : 03.03.15

செப்பனிட்டவரின் கையொப்பம் : ரெ. சுகிருஷ்...

-- சரிபார்க்கப்பட்டது --

பணி வழங்கிய எழுத்தர்
(Issue Clerk)

பணி சரிபார்த்த எழுத்தர்
(Checking Clerk)

பிரிவுத் தலைவர்

restriction has been placed on the emigration to Malaya of female coolies and children. I am to point out that this estimate is liable to revision on receipt of the statement of reasons in support of the claims of the planting community for additional emigrants promised in paragraph 1 of your letter No. 1465/17, dated 24th April 1917, which is awaited. The Governor in Council will be glad if this statement is made to cover the full requirements of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements and if the needs of all the planting areas concerned are set out in detail therein. I am desired to request that the transmission of the statement may be expedited.

IV

Letter—from the Chief Secretary to Government of the Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated—the 11th May 1917.

No.—1465.

In continuation of my letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 24th April 1917, I have the honour to inform you that I have been in communication with the Committee of the Planters Association of Malaya on the subject of the proposal of the Government of Madras to limit the number of male adults (over 18 years of age) whose emigration to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States will be permitted in 1917 to 50,000 and I now beg to lay before His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council the following additional arguments which are put forward in favour of the request for a reconsideration of the decision.

2. The Association, as was also urged in my previous letter, have urged that the requirements of British Malaya cannot be correctly judged by taking the average figures for the past six years which include three war years during which period immigration from India was altogether stopped for more than half a year.

3. It is suggested that it would be fairer to take the two years immediately preceding the war, namely, 1912 and 1913, in which years it will be found that the total number of assisted passages was 73,671 and 91,236 respectively. This gives an average of 82,454 and it was on this basis that this Government was requested to ask that 82,000 should be allowed for 1917.

4. The assisted passages of *adult males* only for the three pre-war years were as follows:—

1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,706
1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60,083
1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,957

and the average was 64,248 adult males a year, so that if the Government of Madras limits the number to 50,000 it means that the planting community will have to manage actually with over 14,000 less than the average of the three pre-war years.

5. It is suggested that consideration ought also to be given to the numbers of labourers returning to India. It is estimated that during the first four months of 1917, 23,640 have returned to India, exceeding the numbers for the corresponding period of 1916 by probably 8,000. This loss requires to be made up in addition to the deficiencies during the past three years. In making their original estimate of 82,000 the Association, recognising the urgency of the appeal which was made by the Government of Madras to keep their requirements down to the lowest possible limits, did not take into consideration the loss caused by increased returns to India and the deficiencies of the last three years to be made up.

6. In paragraph 3 of my previous letter I gave the export of rubber from the Federated Malay States alone for the past five years with the view of indicating the increasing need for labour in this country. The total production in the Malay Peninsula I have now ascertained to be as follows:—

	TONS.
1911	10,782
1912	20,327
1913	33,641
1914	47,006
1915	70,214
1916	99,063

7. When communicating these figures to me the Committee of the Planters Association observe that the urgency for more labour is not limited to the greatly increased area of rubber in tapping, but is in a special manner emphasized by the increase in diseases which require unremitting attention. This view has also the support of the Director of Agriculture.

8. I have now, as far as possible, placed the Government of Madras in possession of the reasons which can be urged in favour of allowing the emigration of at least 82,000 labourers to British Malaya, and I must leave the matter in the hands of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council who will be in a position to weigh all the circumstances and decide whether the full number can and should be allowed.

Order—No. 545, HOME (Miscellaneous), dated 6th June 1917.

In partial modification of paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917, the Government of Madras direct that the number of emigrant labourers whom the Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of the Federated Malay States stationed at Negapatam, and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States have been authorized to ship to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females). No restriction will be placed on the emigration of minors under eighteen years of age accompanying their guardians.

2. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Emigration Agent for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States at Madras.

" Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of Federated Malay States at Negapatam.

" Commissioner of Police, Madras.

" District Magistrate of Tanjore.

" Inspector-General of Police.

Copy to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur (with C.L.).

" Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Singapore (with C.L.).

" Public Department.

4
545

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT

No. 546.

From

THE HON'BLE DIWAN BAHADUR

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO AVARGAL,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home (Miscellaneous) Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Dated Ootacamund, the 6th June 1917.

SIR,

In continuation of Mr. Harvey's letter No. 1008-2, dated the 4th April 1917, I am directed to state that the Government of Madras have since received a statement of reasons in support of the demand of the planting community in Malaya for 82,000 adult coolies (males and females) from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917, and have authorized the emigration to Malaya during the year 1917 of coolies from this Presidency not exceeding the full number asked for by the Government of the Federated Malay States.

This Government consider that the emigration of adult males covered by this authorization will not have any prejudicial effect on recruiting for the army or for any labour corps.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,

Secretary to Government.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 545-46, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS),
DATED THE 6TH JUNE 1917.

[SUBJECT.—*Emigration—Malaya.*]

I

Previous paper :

G.O. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), 14th May 1917.

II

*From the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 1465/17,
dated the 26th April 1917.*

[Letter to the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 902-3,
dated the 11th May 1917—III.]

IV

*From the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 1465/17,
dated the 11th May 1917.*

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Attention is invited to the notes at pages 7-8 of Notes to G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917. The additional arguments put forward by the Colonial Government in support of the demand for 82,000 coolies for the whole of Malaya for the year 1917 will be found at pages 2-3 of G.O. No. 545, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 6th June 1917. It will be observed that the requirements have been based on the average number of adult labourers (males and females) who emigrated to Malaya during the two years 1912 and 1913. The three later years are excluded as immigration was retarded owing to war during these three years. This appears to be the very reason why figures for the three years in question should be taken into account in arriving at the lowest possible minimum requirements of labour for the Colony especially as the Government want to restrict emigration during this year with a view to conserving man-power in India for purposes of labour in connection with war.

2. The main grounds for the demand of 82,000 coolies (adult males and females) appear to be the rapid increase in the production of rubber which has grown from 10,782 tons in 1911 to 99,063 tons in 1916 and the large number of immigrant labourers who have returned from Malaya during the first four months of this year.

3. It will be noticed from paragraph 4 of the letter at page 2 of Government Order referred to above that the Colonial Government will be satisfied if the number of adult males whose emigration is permitted is limited to 64,248 this year. This

G.O. 457, 14th May 1917.

Government have however already authorized the emigration of 70,000 adult males

during this year, no restriction being placed on the emigration of adult female coolies and children. The needs of the Colony will therefore be more than met by the orders already issued and it is for consideration whether any modification of the orders already issued is called for.

T.O.N.—30-5-17.

P.D.R.—31-5-17.

The Federal Government have put forward some strong reasons in support of their demand; chiefly great increase in the production of rubber, and shortage of labour due to the war, which has caused a diminution of emigration from India. The production of rubber as noted above is work of national importance and the man-power of India may at the present time probably be more usefully employed on the rubber industry in Malaya than on work in this country.

However, the provisional limit fixed (70,000 adult males) is in excess of the Colonial Government's demands. For orders whether this limit should be retained, or whether the figure should be reduced to, say, 64,000 odd. One of the chief objects aimed at by the limitation of emigration—though it has nothing in common with the objects of the Ordinance under which it is enforced—is to encourage the emigration of families, and raise the proportion of respectable women amongst the emigrants abroad. Limitation of adult males *may* have this result, as it is reported that women and boys are in some branches of rubber-work equal to or better than men, and the recruitment of families may consequently be stimulated. On the other hand, this consideration has no great force in connection with Malaya, emigration to which is largely seasonal and transitory. On the whole, I submit that if a limit is to be fixed, the provisional limit, already fixed, may now be confirmed.

E. A. HARVEY—31-5-17.

We have already permitted 70,000 adult males in addition to women and children. The Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, wants 82,000 adult males and females. I think we may agree. In fact this will be much less than what we have already agreed to.

I endorse Mr. Harvey's remarks about the importance of the rubber trade during the war. The Malays proper are incorrigibly lazy and consider it undignified to work and the Chinese labour (which I understand is running short this year) is confined to select estates. The real effective labour in the inland States is Indian.

I do not think we need complicate the question with the consideration of family tickets. The sex question is not of much importance in Ceylon and the Federated Malay States; and in the case of Ceylon, the family ticket was adopted as the easiest means of restricting emigration.

May I prepare a draft agreeing?

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—31-5-17.

Yes: I agree to 82,000 adults of both sexes.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—1-6-17.

Draft.

R.R.—2-6-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval. Attention is in this connection invited to the telegram from the Government of India, No. 3537-Emi., dated the 1st April 1917 (paper VI at page 2 of G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917), in which that Government enquired what balance would be available for military purposes if 82,000 coolies were permitted to emigrate and to paragraphs 5-6 of this Government's reply (letter No. 1008-2, dated the 4th April 1917, at pages 3-4 of the Government Order referred to above). It is for consideration whether the Government of India may now be informed that this Government have permitted the emigration of the full number of coolies asked for by Malaya and that the emigration of the adult male coolies involved in this number will not prejudicially affect the recruiting for the army or for labour corps. A draft letter to India is also submitted for consideration.

T.C.N.—2-6-17.

P.D.R.—2-6-17.

The case may be circulated to the Honourable Member (1) and His Excellency the Governor.

E.A.H.—2-6-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—4-6-17.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—4-6-17.

P[ENTLAND]—5-6-17.

Issue.

R.R.—6-6-17.

[G.O. Nos. 545-46, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 6th June 1917.]

DEPARTMENT.

Scott. II-3-1-17.

CURRENT No.

From

Received

191 . Registered

191

Subject.

b
545

C. 114
Home Dept
NOTICE

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS. *Recd 15/5/17*
C. no. 1636

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay.		Office Stamp
Rs.	As.	

Handed in at (Office of Origin).	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words.
9.14	Kuala Lumpur	15	pasw	800/45	13.

TO

Repasat
Chief Secy, F.M.S.
Colonial

You telegram 14th May
in my opinion
of original with all necessary requirements
of Carcosa / *Carcosa*
Chief Secy, Federated Malay States

15 MAY 1917
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYA

N. B. — The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.
Bulab Singh & Sons, Calcutta—

Telegram from the Chief Secretary, F.M.S.
(as decided)
Your telegram 14th May regarding emigration.
Letter despatched last week. In my opinion
82000 minimum requirements.

Home DEPARTMENT.
(His)

Emigration - Malaya

Directing that the number of emigrant labourers authorised to be shipped to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 52,000 adult coolies (males & females) of over eighteen years of age.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 457, Home (His), dated 14.5.1917.

The Supdt of the "F.M.S." at Malaya Station 1917.

READ ALSO - From the Govt of the P.M.S. No. 1465/17, dated 26.4.1917.

C. No. 902-3, Home (His), dated 16.5.1917.

From the Govt of the P.M.S., No. 1465/17, dated 11.5.1917.

1917

ORDER.

No. 545, dated 6.6.1917.

P.S.

In partial modification of para 1 of G.O. no 457, Home (His), dated 14.5.17, the Govt of Madras direct that the number of emigrant labourers whom the Supdt of the Emigration Dept of the Govt of the P.M.S. stationed at Negapatam, and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Straits Settlements and the P.M.S. have been authorised to ship to Malaya during from the 1st January

Enclosed in
Please issue in His
to all concerned. (order only)
for & letters will be furnished
when ready for issue
Jh
6.6.17

to the 31st December 1917
be fixed so as not to
exceed 82,000 adult
coolies (males and females).

~~of over eighteen years of
age excluding children
who should be permitted
to emigrate freely without
restriction.~~

2 The following letter
will be despatched to the
Gf S.

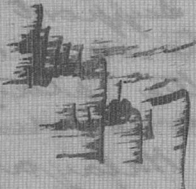
To

2.6.17

1 Dec.

2.6.17

2.6.17



No restriction will be placed on the
emigration of ~~adults~~ ^{minors} under
~~their parents~~ ^{eighteen years of age} accompanying
their guardians.

To
The Emigration Agent for
the Straits Settlements & the
F.M.S. at Malacca.

The Supdt of the Emigration
Dept of the Govt of the F.M.S.
at Negapatnam

+ The Commissioner of Police, Malacca
+ The D.O. of Tanjong
+ The S. G. of Police

Copy to the Chief Secretary
to the Govt of the F.M.S.,
Kuala Lumpur
with C.L.

Copy to the ~~Ex-Officio~~ the Colonial
Secretary, Singapore.
with C.L.

11 & Public Dept
Not for the L.T.

Letter

5/5

5462 6.6.17

Home dept
(Min)

To

The Secretary to the Govt,
Dept of Commerce and
Industry.

Sir,

In continuation
of Mr Harvey's letter No 1008-2,
of the 4.4.17, I am directed
to state that the Govt of
Malacca have since received
a statement of reasons
in support of the ^{demand} ~~claims~~
of the planting community
in Malaya for 82,000
adult coolies (males and
females) from the 1st
January ~~and~~ to the 31st
December 1917, and have
authorized the emigration
^(during the year 1917)
to Malaya of coolies from
this Presidency not exceeding
the full number ^{asked for} ~~required~~
~~by the Federated Malay States~~
for Malaya. ~~The emigration~~
by the Govt of the Federated Malay
States of coolies to other member
States.

Paper IX pp 3-4

if G.O. 457 D
14.5.17

Wm
4/6/7

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 26th April 1917, I am directed to state that a copy of G. O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917, authorizing the shipment of emigrant labourers to Malaya up to a total of 70,000 adult males during the calendar year 1917 was despatched to your address on the 14th instant. It will be observed that no restriction has been placed on the emigration to Malaya of female coolies and children. I am to point out that this estimate is liable to revision on receipt of the statement of reasons in support of the claims of the planting community for additional emigrants promised in paragraph 1 of your letter No. 1465/17, dated 24th April 1917, which is awaited. The Governor in Council will be glad if this statement is made to cover the full requirements of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements and if the needs of all the planting areas concerned are set out in detail therein. I am desired to request that the transmission of the statement may be expedited.

Pres
Please
Jan
15667
15667

GOVERNMENT DRAFT
16 JUN 1917

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated--the 11th May 1917.

No. ---1465/1917.

In continuation of my letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 24th April 1917, I have the honour to inform you that I have been in communication with the Committee of the Planters Association of Malaya on the subject of the proposal of the Government of Madras to limit the number of male adults (over 18 years of age) whose emigration to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States will be permitted in 1917 to 50,000 and I now beg to lay before His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council the following additional arguments which are put forward in favour of the request for a reconsideration of the decision.

2. The Association, as was also urged in my previous letter, have urged that the requirements of British Malaya cannot be correctly judged by taking the average figures for the past six years which include three war years during which period immigration from India was altogether stopped for more than half a year.

3. It is suggested that it would be fairer to take the two years immediately preceding the war, namely, 1912 and 1913, in which years it will be found that the total number of assisted passages was 73,671 and 91,236 respectively. This gives an average of 82,454 and it was on this basis that this Government was requested to ask that 82,000 should be allowed for 1917.

4. The assisted passages of *adult males* only for the three pre-war years were as follows:—

[illegible]

and the average was 64,248 adult males a year, so that if the Government of Madras limits the number to 50,000 it means that the planting community will have to manage actually with over 14,000 less than the average of the three pre-war years.

5. It is suggested that consideration ought also to be given to the numbers of labourers returning to India. It is estimated that during the first four months of 1917, 23,640 have returned to India exceeding the numbers for the corresponding period of 1916 by probably 8,000. This loss requires to be made up in addition to the deficiencies during the past three years. In making their original estimate of 82,000 the Association, recognising the urgency of the appeal which was made by the Government of Madras to keep their requirements down to the lowest possible limits, did not take into consideration the loss caused by increased returns to India and the deficiencies of the last three years to be made up.

6. In paragraph 3 of my previous letter I gave the export of rubber from the Federated Malay States alone for the past five years with the view of indicating the increasing need for labour in this country. The total production in the Malay Peninsula I have now ascertained to be as follows:—

[illegible]

7. When communicating these figures to me the Committee of the Planters Association observe that the urgency for more labour is not limited to the greatly increased area of rubber in tapping, but is in a special manner emphasized by the increase in diseases which require unremitting attention. This view has also the support of the Director of Agriculture.

8. I have now, as far as possible, placed the Government of Madras in possession of the reasons which can be urged in favour of allowing the emigration of at least 82,000 labourers to British Malaya, and I must leave the matter in the hands of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council who will be in a position to weigh all the circumstances and decide whether the full number can and should be allowed.

Order—No. 545, HOME (Miscellaneous), dated 6th June 1917.

In partial modification of paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 457, HOME (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917, the Government of Madras direct that the number of emigrant labourers whom the Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of the Federated Malay States stationed at Negapatam, and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States have been authorized to ship to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females). No restriction will be placed on the emigration of minors under eighteen years of age accompanying their guardians.

2. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Emigration Agent for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States at Madras.

- " Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of Federated Malay States at Negapatam.
- " Commissioner of Police, Madras.
- " District Magistrate of Tanjore.
- " Inspector-General of Police.

Copy to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur (with C.L.).

- " Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Singapore (with C.L.).
- " Public Department.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT
G.O. No. 545, 6th June 1917

Emigration--Malaya

Directing that the number of emigrant labourers authorized to be shipped to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females) of over eighteen years of age.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917.
 RACT.—Authorizing the Superintendent of the Federal Milk Service

U.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917.
 ABSTRACT.—Authorizing the Superintendent of the Federated Malay States Government Emigration Depot at Negapatam and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements to ship up to a total of 70,000 adult male emigrant labourers during the calendar year 1917.

II

Letter—from the Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.
Dated—the 26th April 1917.

Dated—the 26th April 1917.

No.--1465/1917.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 25th instant, in the following words (as decoded):
"Please telegraph."

"Please telegraph when may reply be expected to 1008/1, dated 4th April 1917, regarding arrangements decided by this Government for giving effect to restriction of emigration to Malaya." and to inform you that I have this day replied thereto by telegram as follows (as decoded):—

"Your letter of 4th April regarding emigration missent Singapore reply despatched yesterday. Hope you will suspend restriction of emigration to Malaya pending further consideration. Information contained in reply will show numbers proposed by Government of Madras insufficient."

2. I would request you to be so good as to address your letters to me as follows:--
Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.
3. Your letter of the 4th instant has been received.

3. Your letter of the 4th instant being addressed to the Chief Secretary to High Commissioner was wrongly redirected to Singapore and delay was thereby unfortunately caused and a mail lost.

III

Letter--from the Hon'ble M.R.Ey. Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO
Avargal, Secretary to Government House (M. P.)

To—the Chief Secretary to Government, P. O. Box 100, Madras.

Dated—Ootacamund, the 16th May 1917.

No--902-3.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 26th April 1917, I am directed to state that a copy of G O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917, authorizing the shipment of emigrant labourers to Malaya up to a total of 70,000 adult males during the calendar year 1917 was despatched to your address on the 14th instant. It will be observed that no restriction has been placed on the emigration to Malaya of female coolies and children. I am to point out that this estimate is liable to revision on receipt of the statement of reasons in support of the claims of the planting community for additional emigrants promised in paragraph 1 of your letter No. 1465/17, dated 24th April 1917, which is awaited. The Governor in Council will be glad if this statement is made to cover the full requirements of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements and if the needs of all the planting areas concerned are set out in detail therein. I am desired to request that the transmission of the statement may be expedited.

Letter—from the Chief Secretary to Government of the Federated Malay States,
Kuala Lumpur.

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated—the 11th May 1917.

No.—1465/1917.

In continuation of my letter No. 1465/1917, dated the 24th April 1917, I have the honour to inform you that I have been in communication with the Committee of the Planters Association of Malaya on the subject of the proposal of the Government of Madras to limit the number of male adults (over 18 years of age) whose emigration to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States will be permitted in 1917 to 50,000 and I now beg to lay before His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council the following additional arguments which are put forward in favour of the request for a reconsideration of the decision.

2. The Association, as was also urged in my previous letter, have urged that the requirements of British Malaya cannot be correctly judged by taking the average figures for the past six years which include three war years during which period immigration from India was altogether stopped for more than half a year.

3. It is suggested that it would be fairer to take the two years immediately preceding the war, namely, 1912 and 1913, in which years it will be found that the total number of assisted passages was 73,671 and 91,236 respectively. This gives an average of 82,454 and it was on this basis that this Government was requested to ask that 82,000 should be allowed for 1917.

4. The assisted passages of *adult males* only for the three pre-war years were as follows:—

1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,706
1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60,083
1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,957

and the average was 64,248 adult males a year so that if the Government of Madras limits the number to 50,000 it means that the planting community will have to manage actually with over 14,000 less than the average of the three pre-war years.

5. It is suggested that consideration ought also to be given to the numbers of labourers returning to India. It is estimated that during the first four months of 1917, 23,640 have returned to India exceeding the numbers for the corresponding period of 1916 by probably 8,000. This loss requires to be made up in addition to the deficiencies during the past three years. In making their original estimate of 82,000 the Association, recognising the urgency of the appeal which was made by the Government of Madras to keep their requirements down to the lowest possible limits, did not take into consideration the loss caused by increased returns to India and the deficiencies of the last three years to be made up.

6. In paragraph 3 of my previous letter I gave the export of rubber from the Federated Malay States alone for the past five years with the view of indicating the increasing need for labour in this country. The total production in the Malay Peninsula I have now ascertained to be as follows:—

	TONS.
1911	10,782
1912	20,327
1913	33,641
1914	47,006
1915	70,214
1916	99,063

7. When communicating these figures to me the Committee of the Planters Association observe that the urgency for more labour is not limited to the greatly increased area of rubber in tapping, but is in a special manner emphasized by the increase in diseases which require unremitting attention. This view has also the support of the Director of Agriculture.

8. I have now, as far as possible, placed the Government of Madras in possession of the reasons which can be urged in favour of allowing the emigration of at least 82,000 labourers to British Malaya, and I must leave the matter in the hands of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in Council who will be in a position to weigh all the circumstances and decide whether the full number can and should be allowed.

Order—No. 545, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 6th June 1917.

In partial modification of paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 14th May 1917, the Government of Madras direct that the number of emigrant labourers whom the Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of the Federated Malay States stationed at Negapatam, and the Emigration Agent at Madras for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States have been authorized to ship to Malaya from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917 be fixed so as not to exceed 82,000 adult coolies (males and females). No restriction will be placed on the emigration of minors under eighteen years of age accompanying their guardians.

2. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Emigration Agent for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States at Madras.

- .. Superintendent of the Emigration Depot of the Government of Federated Malay States at Negapatam.
- .. Commissioner of Police, Madras.
- .. District Magistrate of Tanjore.
- .. Inspector-General of Police.

Copy to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur (with C.L.).

- .. Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Singapore (with C.L.).
- .. Public Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT
No. 546.

From

THE HON'BLE DIWAN BAHADUR
R. RAMACHANDRA RAO AYANGAL,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Miscellaneous) Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.
Dated Ootacamund, the 6th June 1917.

SIR,

In continuation of Mr. Harvey's letter No. 1008-2, dated the 4th April 1917, I am directed to state that the Government of Madras have since received a statement of reasons in support of the demand of the planting community in Malaya for 82,000 adult coolies (males and females) from the 1st January to the 31st December 1917, and have authorized the emigration to Malaya during the year 1917 of coolies from this Presidency not exceeding the full number asked for by the Government of the Federated Malay States.

This Government consider that the emigration of adult males covered by this authorization will not have any prejudicial effect on recruiting for the army or for any labour corps.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

193 para
16 for notes
16 for notes

Please strike off

For
19/6/17

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 545-46, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS),
DATED THE 6TH JUNE 1917.

[SUBJECT.—Emigration—Malaya.]

I

Previous page :
G.O. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), 6th June 1917.

II

From the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 1465/17,
dated the 26th April 1917.

III

Telegram from the Government of the Federated Malay States,
dated the 15th May 1917.

[Letter to the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 902-3,
dated the 11th May 1917—IV.]

V

From the Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, No. 1465/17,
dated the 11th May 1917.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Attention is invited to the notes at pages 7-8 of notes to G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917. The additional arguments put forward by the Colonial Government in support of the demand for 82,000 coolies for the whole of Malaya for the year 1917 will be found in the current file. It will be observed that the requirements have been based on the average number of adult labourers (males and females) who emigrated to Malaya during the two years 1912 and 1913. The three later years are excluded as immigration was retarded owing to war during these three years. This appears to be the very reason why figures for the three years in question should be taken into account in arriving at the lowest possible minimum requirements of labour for the Colony especially as the Government want to restrict emigration during this year with a view to conserving man-power in India for purposes of labour in connection with war.

2. The main grounds for the demand of 82,000 coolies (adult males and females) appear to be the rapid increase in the production of rubber which has grown from 10,782 tons in 1911 to 99,063 tons in 1916 and the large number of immigrant labourers who have returned from Malaya during the first four months of this year.

3. It will be noticed from paragraph 4 of the letter in the current file that the Colonial Government will be satisfied if the number of adult males whose emigration is permitted is limited to 64,248 this year. This Government have however already

G.O. 457, 14th May 1917.

authorized the emigration of 70,000 adult males during this year, no restriction being placed on the emigration of adult female coolies and children. The needs of the Colony will therefore be more than met by the orders already issued and it is for consideration whether any modification of the orders already issued is called for.

T.C.N.—30-5-17.

P.D.R.—31-5-17.

The Federal Government have put forward ~~even~~ ^{some} strong reasons in support of their demand; chiefly great increase in the production of rubber, and shortage of labour due to the war, which has caused a diminution of emigration from India. The production of rubber as noted above is work of national importance and the man-power of India may at the present time probably be more usefully employed on the rubber industry in Malaya than on work in this country.



16/545
10
15-6-17
14th May 1917

2 Notes to G.O. Nos. 545-46, HOME (Miscellaneous), 6TH JUNE 1917 ¹⁷/₅₄₅

However, the provisional limit fixed (70,000 adult males) is in excess of the Colonial Government's demands. For orders, whether this limit should be retained, or whether the figure should be reduced to, say, 64,000 odd. One of the chief objects aimed at by the limitation of emigration—though it has nothing in common with the

Defence of India Consolidation Rules. objects of the Ordinance under which it is enforced—is to encourage the emigration of families, and raise the proportion of respectable women amongst the emigrants abroad. Limitation of adult males may have this result, as it is reported that women and boys are in some branches of rubber-work equal to or better than men, and the recruitment of families may consequently be stimulated. On the other hand, this consideration has no great force in connection with Malaya, emigration to which is largely seasonal and transitory. On the whole, I submit that if a limit is to be fixed, the provisional limit, already fixed, may now be confirmed.

E. A. HARVEY—31-5-17.

We have already permitted 70,000 adult males in addition to women and children. The Chief Secretary, Federated Malay States, wants 82,000 adult males and females. I think we may agree. In fact this will be much less than what we have already agreed to.

I endorse Mr. Harvey's remarks about the importance of the rubber trade during the war. The Malays proper are incorrigibly lazy and consider it undignified to work; and the Chinese labour (which I understand is running short this year) is confined to select estates. The real effective labour in the inland States is Indian.

I do not think we need complicate the question with the consideration of family tickets. The sex question is not of much importance in Ceylon and the Federated Malay States; and in the case of Ceylon, the family ticket was adopted as the easiest means of restricting emigration.

May I prepare a draft agreeing?

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—31-5-17.

Yes: I agree to 82,000 adults of both sexes.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—1-6-17.

Draft.

R.R.—2-6-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval. Attention is in this connection invited to the telegram from the Government of India, No. 3537-Emi., dated the 1st April 1917 (paper VI at page 2 of G.O. No. 457, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 14th May 1917), in which that Government enquired what balance would be available for military purposes if 82,000 coolies were permitted to emigrate and to paragraphs 5-6 of this Government's reply (letter No. 1003-2, dated the 4th April 1917, at pages 3-4 of the Government Order referred to above). It is for consideration whether the Government of India may now be informed that this Government have permitted the emigration of the full number of coolies asked for by Malaya and that the emigration of the adult male coolies involved in this number will not prejudicially affect the recruiting for the army or for labour corps. A draft letter to India is also submitted for consideration.

T.C.N.—2-6-17.

P.D.R.—2-6-17.

The case may be circulated to the Honourable Member (1) and His Excellency the Governor.

E. A. HARVEY—2-6-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—4-6-17.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—4-6-17.

P[ENTLAND]—5-6-17.

Issue.

R.R.—6-6-17.

[G.O. Nos. 545-46, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 6th June 1917.]

Current No. 545 dated 6-6-1917

G.O. No. 145 dated 14-6-1917

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KUALA LUMPUR,

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

No

1465/1917.



30th May, 1917.

Sir,

Paper III

*pp 1-27
40.545
6.6.17*

I am directed by the Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States, to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter No.902/3 dated the 16th May, 1917, regarding the shipment of emigrant labourers to Malaya during 1917, and to inform you that the additional information asked for will be obtained and forwarded to you as soon as possible

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sh. Subramaniam

Under Secretary to Government, F.M.S.

The Secretary to

The Government of Madras,

Madras.

P.S.M.



20
545

KUALA LUMPUR,
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

No.
1465/1917.



14th June 1917.

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the limit to be fixed for the number of male adult labourers whose emigration from Madras to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States would be permitted in 1917, I have the honour to convey to the Government of Madras an expression of the thanks of the planting community of Malaya for the consideration shown in raising the limit, previously fixed at 50,000, to 70,000.

2. Steps were being taken to collect the detailed information promised in my letter of the 24th April last and I was in correspondence with the Planters' Association of Malaya on the subject when news was received of the very considerable restrictions imposed on shipping between Madras and this country. In view of this it is unlikely that more than the 70,000 labourers now allowed could be brought to this country from Madras during the current year and, in the circumstances, I do not think I need trouble the planting community to collect the evidence which they were otherwise prepared to put forward nor the Government of Madras to consider it.

Para 1
of paper VI
p 1488
4.5.17 R
14.5.17

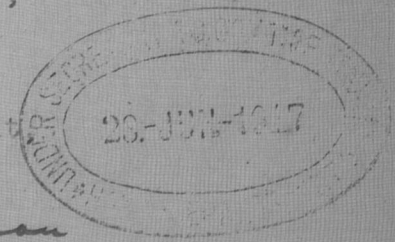
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Submitted for perusal. The papers may be lodged & filed with the original of G.O. 545 Home (His), 6.6.17.

The Secretary to
The Government of Madras;
Madras.

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

E. L. Prochman
Chief Secretary, F.M.S.



5
E.L.P.
27.6.17