

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	713	Press
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Dated	26 -	19-1878

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Fort St. George. Judicial Consultation, 8th June 1858.

No. 1. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 14th May 1858, No. 163.

SIR,

Mr. Cotton having forwarded a further letter in explanation of my report to Government on the late night escape from the wards of the Masulipatam Jail, I have the honor to forward the same with a copy of my reply.

From J. J. COTTON, Esq., Session Judge of Masulipatam; to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons, Ootacamund, dated 6th April 1858, No. 189.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of Extract from Minutes of Consultation, under date 19th March 1858 (No. 366) on this day, viz., 6th April, upon my first detailed report of the outbreak from the Jail under my charge on the night of the 18th February preceding.

2. I take the liberty to point out one or two errors in your communication to Government, which might have induced the impression that I had neglected to carry out your instructions conveyed in the Memo, annexed to the correspondence now under reference.

3. The insecurity of the windows in this Jail has been matter of acknowledged fact ever since I have been here, and probably for many years previously, and the remedy suggested by you on your visit in May last was as far as I could then understand it, simply impracticable without taking the windows out of the wards' walls; in which case of course a better remedy in the replacement of the decayed sills would have been feasible also, as well as fresh bars in place of those eaten through, or nearly so, by rust. The information lately given me on the subject in your letter of the 18th Ultimo, together with the diagram explanatory of your proposal, induced me to have an estimate made with the view of carrying out your suggestion. I find that the cost of fitting a cross bar to each window (32) in the 8 large wards of the Jail in the manner shown in your diagram would be about Rupees 132.

4. My letter to you of the 27th Idem in reply thereto, contains all that I have further to say on that subject.

5. With reference to para. 7 regarding the want of a Revolver for the use of the Jailor, I beg to state that up to the present writing, I have received no instructions whatever from you directing prepayment to be made before sending an Indent to the Principal Commissary of Ordnance for the Pistol in question. In fact from a copy of Extract of Minutes of Consultation dated 28th November 1857, No 1562, it was clearly intimated to me that as the Principal Commissary of Ordnance had been instructed so long ago as on the previous 19th October, "to make over to the Inspector of Prisons the 20 Revolvers purchased (by Government) for the use of Jailors it was unnecessary to have included in the Indent" (for 50 swords,) the item of a Revolver required also by me. This is the last intimation I have been able to obtain regarding the weapon, though I have made repeated applications for its issue.

6. And now with regard to the Memo: dated 5th May last, appended to the correspondence before Government, you are not probably aware that no previous copy of that has ever been furnished to me.

7. As to the policy of the arrangements proposed by you in paras: 3 and 5 now sanctioned by the Government, it is not for me to offer any further opinion; the matter was discussed at the time by us personally, and as I am merely the executive officer, it is simply my duty to carry out any suggestions that you deem most advisable to make, without demur.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th June 1858.

From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to J. J. COTTON, Esq., Session Judge of Masulipatam, dated Ootacamund, 13th May 1858, No. 157.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th April, relative to my report of the late out-break at Masulipatam; this letter, I did not receive till my return from the Western Coast, yesterday.

2. I see no reason to doubt that the windows may be repaired without removing the frames which would be objectionable, as the frames new or old might be removed by pressure, if set in new brick work; the charge of 132 Rupees more or less will receive my sanction on the estimates or bills being submitted.

3. You state that you received *no instructions* whatever from me directing prepayment to be made before sending an Indent to the Principal Commissary of Ordnance for the Pistol in question.

4. The Indent you refer to was on the Principal Commissary of Ordnance, but as it included other items requiring sanction, it was submitted to Government and on the Principal Commissary's objecting to supply articles without payment, this and all other Indents were returned with Circular instructions, No. 44. This, I presume you received; you must be well aware that I do not undertake the transmission of arms and though they are made over to me they are issued in the usual course and under the ordinary rules from the Arsenal. Copies of the Extract for Arms, were circulated to all officers in charge of Jails on the 18th September last and previous to the purchase of the Revolvers.

5. In regard to your statement that no previous copy of the Memo. on the Masulipatam Jail was furnished to you, I can only say that to the best of my recollection you received a copy from me at Masulipatam and that my head writer states one was delivered to you, I may add that in subsequent demi-official letters you refer, unless my recollection deceives me, to some of the propositions and that on my visit to the Jail you gave some instructions regarding the strengthening of the window bars as proposed by me.

6. A copy of the letter received by me and of this reply will be submitted to Government in explanation of my former report.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 713; dated 2nd June 1858.

The Government have very recently, Extract Minutes Consultation 7th May 1858, directed that immediate measures be taken for securing the windows of the cells in the Masulipatam Jail. The Inspector will see that these orders are obeyed.

2. Mr. Rohde has been already desired to see that Revolvers be supplied to all the Jailors for whose use they have been sanctioned.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 713. J.C.

The Govt. have very recently - Extract 7 May 58 - directed that immediate measures be taken for securing the windows of the cells in the Masulipatam Jail - The Inspector will see that these orders are obeyed -

Mr Rohde has been already desired to see that Revolvers be supplied to all the Jailors for whose use they have been sanctioned -

Fort St. George.
2nd June 1858.
To the Insp. of Prisons. J. Rohde