MR. G. 2—20,000—16-10-98.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1162. Press ~~Mis.~~

234-235

Dated 20-7-~~18~~ 1887

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 234. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Ootacamund, 8th July 1867, No. 63.

I have the honor to report that, on the 17th ultimo, the existence of a plot, for the purpose of effecting their escape, on the part of five convicts in the Jail at the Chinchona Plantations at Neddiwuttum, and belonging to a gang of Cuddapah men received from Salem in April 1866, was divulged to the Superintendent by three convicts of the same gang, named, respectively, M. Nagadoo, S. Cumbadoo, and C. Soobadoo.

2. The five men admitted the charge, and as there did not appear to be proof of any overt act sufficient to secure a conviction for abetment, they were punished for conspiring with others to escape, under the provisions of Regulations X of 1832 and I of 1833, together with another convict who was cognizant of the plot. Nine other convicts were criminated by one of the five offenders, but as there was not any independent evidence against them, nothing was done in their case.

3. Subsequent to the infliction of the punishment, the five men accused one of the informers, named Cotta Soobadoo, of having been the instigator of the plot, but there is no proof of this, and I do not think that an unsupported allegation of this kind ought to stand in the way of any reward which Government might otherwise be pleased to grant. In this instance, there can be no doubt that a conspiracy was formed for the purpose of effecting an escape, and that the three men, Nagadoo, Cumbadoo, and Soobadoo, did give timely information thereof to the Superintendent, and I, therefore, submit, for the favorable consideration of Government, that a remission of their sentences, to the extent of two years each, may be granted to the men in question.

4. Two of the five offenders, and some of the other men accused, attempted to escape from Salem Jail in 1864, and ought not to have been selected for transfer to Neddiwuttum by the Officer then in charge of the Jail.

5. The original report of the Superintendent at Neddiwuttum and the subsequent correspondence on the subject, are herewith enclosed.

From the Superintendent of the Jail at Neddiwuttum, to the Inspector General of Jails ; dated Neddiwuttum, 18th June 1867, No. 19.

I have the honor to submit, for your information, that fourteen of the Cuddapah convicts who were sent to this Jail on the 16th April 1866, from Salem, have been discovered in entering into a conspiracy to escape from this Jail.

2. Yesterday morning, convicts Nagadoo (Jail Sweeper), Cunnean (Jail Dhoby), and Soobadoo (a Maistry)—all Cuddapah men, but not concerned with the others—reported to the Jailer, as soon as the Jail was opened, that they had overheard the conversation of five other convicts about concocting a plan for making their escape.

Vencatigadoo.
Koraven Rungadoo.
Yanady Vencatigadoo.
Nareegadoo.
Gooreeveegadoo.

3. It would appear from the statements of these men that the five men in question had made up their minds to make an attempt to escape on Sunday afternoon, whilst it was raining and very foggy, but their efforts were baffled, in consequence of the precaution taken by the Chief Constable of the Jail guard to place extra sentries all round the Jail, owing to the dense fog which has prevailed ever since the setting in of our S. W. Monsoon.

4. This morning one* of the five who was reported to me yesterday turned evidence against the others, and it would appear from his statement that nine† others were also concerned. He being a Korawar, and knowing the Mysore country, they induced him to join them, and be their guide. I have every reason to believe his statement (which I forward for your information), as it has led to the discovery of a chisel and an axe which were missing out of the stores, and found concealed in the roof of the latrine, for the purpose of removing their fetters, should they have made a successful escape.

* Koraven Rungadoo.

† Rameegadoo. M. B. Nagadoo. M. G. Wobegadoo. M. Oodeegadoo. Baleegadoo. Seetharamoodoo. Ummut Khan. Gurveegadoo. Ramoodoo.

5. I would wish to inform you that, as nine of the men had attempted an escape at Salem, I deemed it advisable to have double chains placed on their legs, pending your decision in the matter. I have also had them distributed through the wards, not allowing two of them to sleep together. I have also the honor to state that they are not sent out to work, but kept under the charge of two sentries, awaiting your early instructions.

Statement of convict Rungadoo, who turned evidence against the Cuddapah men.

Rungadoo, a Korawar, states that, on or about the 2nd instant (Sunday), the thirteen men mentioned in the margin, who were all seated together and holding a consultation, called him to them and said that, as they had nearly all more than ten years to serve in Jail, and they were becoming tired of this one, they had all resolved, as the weather was wet and foggy, to make their escape, but as they did not know this side of the Hills, meaning Mysore, and he did, if he would join them and be their guide, they had money and would pay all his expenses, and give him a turban and a cloth, and upon these terms he consented. Nothing more was arranged or spoken of till the following Wednesday, when Seetharamoodoo, Baleegadoo, and Nagadoo asked him to come and sleep in their ward, which he did. Nagadoo and Wobegadoo then gave him a chisel, telling him to commence boring a hole through the wall, and that *they* would make it large enough for them to get through. He then told them that he could not manage it with a chisel, but if they got him a small crowbar that he would do it, provided he had some one to assist him, whereupon they called another Korawar, named Pullance, to assist him. Pullance, however, declined, stating that he did not wish to be implicated. Nothing further was mentioned till Saturday night the 15th instant, when he told the men that it was useless attempting to make their escape, but they said "never mind, only show us the road to Mysore, and we will defray all your expenses." The scheme for making a hole in the wall was abandoned, so it was arranged that they were all to try and get out of the ward, under the pretence of going to the rear, about 4 o'clock on Sunday the 16th; that, as the weather would be sure to be wet and foggy, and the cooks would be busy serving out the rations about that time to all the convicts in the wards, four of them were to be on the look out, and as soon as an opportunity offered and all were in, the doors of the ward were to be bolted and shut upon them; this done, they were all to rush into the guard-room, seize the Arms, and endeavour to affect their escape; but that having failed this Sunday they would try and carry out their intention the next.

Vencatigadoo. Yanady Vencatigadoo. Nareegadoo. Gooreeveegadoo. Rameegadoo. M. B. Nagadoo. M. G. Wobegadoo. Baleegadoo. Seetharamoodoo. Ummut Khan. Ramoodoo. M. Oodeegadoo. Gurveegadoo.

Korawar Pullance also substantiates what Rungadoo has stated. The Chief Constable also observed the men looking very suspiciously about them on Sunday, but he did not think much of it at the time until the report was made on Monday, and some of the very men brought forward whom he saw looking about so suspiciously.

Convict Rungadoo's statement was given in the presence of the Jailer and Apothecary, the latter acting as Interpreter; as also that of Convict Pullance.

NEDDIWUTTUM JAIL,
18th June 1867.

(Signed) C. R. DAWSON,
Superintendent of Jail.

From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Superintendent of the Jail at Neddiwuttum; dated Ootacamund, 27th June 1867, No. 690.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 19, with enclosures.

2. As far as I can see from the record before me, there was no overt act sufficient to obtain a conviction before a Magistrate for conspiracy or abetment, and the offenders must, therefore, be punished for a breach of jail discipline, under Clause III, Section VI, Regulation X of 1832, by which you are empowered to inflict stripes with a cat-o'-nine tails, not exceeding 150, for an offence of this nature, viz., conspiring with others for the purpose of escape.

As extended by Regulation 1 of 1833.

3. In all cases of this kind the evidence of convicts concerned, which has not been spontaneously offered, must be viewed with great suspicion, and I do not see that there is any evidence in this case that will justify the infliction of punishment, except as regards the five men named in the margin, who seem to have been overheard by independent witnesses unconnected with the design. The crimination of the remaining nine men by Rungadoo, if unsupported by other testimony is not sufficient, nor do I think that the confession by Rungadoo, subsequent to the discovery of the design, entitles him to escape punishment.

Vencatigadoo. Koraven Rungadoo. Y. Vencatigadoo. Nareegadoo. Gooreeveegadoo.

4. With these remarks, I will leave you to inflict punishment with reference to the physical condition and general character of the five offenders, merely observing that it ought to be severe, as an example to the rest.

5. I will thank you to inform me when the punishment has been carried out, and also to let me know whether any other evidence has turned up against the remaining nine.

6. The convict Pullanee also appears to me to be punishable on his own showing, for, although he knew of the conspiracy, he failed to report it.

7. I will thank you to inform me of the crimes, date of sentences, and general character of the convicts Nagadoo, Cunnean* , and Soobadoo who gave the information, in order that I may recommend them to Government for some remission, should you be of opinion that they deserve it.

*Cumbadoo.

8. I have called upon the Superintendent at Salem to furnish me with the particulars of the attempt to escape alluded to by you.

From the Superintendent of the Jail at Neddiwuttum, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Neddiwuttum, 1st July 1867, No. 22.

With reference to paragraphs 4 and 5 of your letter, No. 690, I have the honor to inform you that the five offenders named in the margin received the full punishment, viz., 150 lashes with the cat-o'-nine tails, and nothing further has turned up against the nine who were criminated by Rungadoo.

Nareegadoo. Vencatigadoo. Y. Vencatigadoo. Gooreeveegadoo. K. Rungadoo.

The convict Pullance also received 60 lashes.

2. I have the honor to enclose a statement of the crimes and sentences of the three informants, and beg to inform you that the Jail Dhoby's name is Shakala Cumbadoo, Cunnean being his sobriquet in the Jail.

3. The five men who were punished now declare that Soobadoo, one of the informants, was the instigator of the plot, to which they acknowledge being accomplices. Under this circumstance, I do not consider that he is entitled to any remission from his sentence, whilst Nagadoo and Shakala Cumbadoo are submitted for your favorable consideration.

STATEMENT of crimes and sentences of the three convicts mentioned in the Inspector General of Jails' letter, No. 690, dated 27th June 1867.

Names.	No. of the case on Calender.	Crimes.		Sentences.		General character in this Jail.
		1st offence.	2nd offence.	1st offence.	2nd offence.	
				Years.	Years.	
Mala Nagadoo.....	11/1861 & 11/1864	Highway robbery.	Attempt at escape.	14	5	Good.
Cotta Soobadoo.....	22/1860 & 11/1864	The same.		14	5	Suspicious.
Shakala Cumbadoo.....	21/1861 & 11/1864	The same.		14	5	Good.

NEDDIWUTTUM,
1*st July* 1867.

(Signed) C. R. DAWSON,
Superintendent of Jail.

From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Superintendent of the Jail at Neddiwuttum; dated Ootacamund, 3rd July 1867, No. 741.

With reference to your letter, No. 22, and enclosure, I have the honor to request you will let me know the dates of sentences, and of expiry of sentences, in the cases of the three informers, which can only be guessed at from the statement sent with your said letter.

Vide paragraph 7, letter 690.

2. The character of Cotta Soobadoo is entered as "suspicious," and the five men who were punished have now accused him of being the instigator of the plot. This may be true or false—it is very difficult to say. It is not improbable that the charge may be made out of revenge; while, on the other hand, it is quite possible that the scheme might have been suggested by Soobadoo, with the intention of giving information and profiting thereby. It is, therefore, important to know the general character and behaviour of Soobadoo during the year he has been at Neddiwuttum, and whether there are any grounds for suspecting him, irrespective of the allegation now brought against him. It must be remembered that he was not criminated along with the nine others first accused.

From the Superintendent of the Jail at Neddiwuttum, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Neddiwuttum, 5th July 1867, No. 24.

In reply to your letter, No. 741, I have the honor to enclose a correct statement, with reference to the dates of sentences of the three informers.

2. With reference to Soobadoo's character during the year that he has been here, I have nothing to say against it generally. My only ground for entering "suspicious" was that it was very possible he was one of those concerned, and, in forming this opinion hastily, I beg most respectively to withdraw it, on the strength of yours, so forcibly explained in paragraph 2 of your letter now under reply, and have entered "good" against Soobadoo.

Statement showing the crimes, date of sentences, expiry of sentences, and general character of the convicts Nagadoo, Shakala Cumbadoo, and Cotta Soobadoo, who gave the information of the conspiracy of attempt to escape from the Neddiwuttum Jail.

Names.	Crimes.	Date of sentences.		Total number of years.	Date of expiration of sentences.	General character in this Jail.
		1st sentence.	2nd sentence.			
M. Nagadoo.	Highway robbery and attempt to escape.	10th May 1861, 14 years.	3rd August 1864, 5 years.	19	10th May 1880.	Good.
Shakala Cumbadoo.	The same.	22nd October 1861, 14 years.	3rd August 1864, 5 years.	19	22nd October 1880.	Good.
Cotta Soobadoo.	The same.	26th October 1860, 14 years.	3rd August 1864, 5 years.	19	26th October 1879.	Good.

NEDDIWUTTUM,
5th July 1867.

(Signed) C. R. DAWSON,
Superintendent of Jail.

No. 235. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1867, No. 1162.

From this correspondence, the Governor in Council observes that the existence of a plot, for the escape of five convicts from the Jail at Neddiwuttum, was brought to light by three convicts of the same gang. The Inspector General has recommended that a remission of two years of their sentences should be granted to these three convicts.

2. The Governor in Council is not prepared to grant a remission of sentence to more than one of these convicts; for, assuming the plot to have been genuine, it was unnecessary that the three prisoners cognizant of it should have waited to form an association before giving the information which led to the discovery of the alleged design of the five convicts to escape.

3. The Inspector General of Jails will report the name of the prisoner who he may consider was the first who had knowledge of the plot, and thereon revealed it; and, on receiving this information, the remission to this prisoner of two years of his sentence will be sanctioned by Government.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails, with enclosures, returned.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Governor in Council is pleased in recognition of the Conduct of prisoners M. Nagadoo, S. Cumbadoo, and C. Soobadoo, on the occasion reported in the foregoing letter, to remit two years of the Sentence under which each of the Prisoners are confined in the Jail at Neddiwattum -

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To, The Inspector General of Jails.
- " - Session Judge of Bothcamund.

The policy of a remission of sentence to three convicts, for giving information of the intended escape of five convicts, seems to me to be doubtful — Why, if the plot — assuming it to be genuine one — was known to A, should A have associated with himself B and C in order to make the necessary communn to the local custodian? It frequently happens that two or three or more convicts pretend to make arrangements for an escape in which they induce others to join, solely with a view, when things are sufficiently matured to turning round on them, bouldering the project, and, by a timely revelation to the jailor, securing for themselves what is now generally known to be the usual reward of such conduct — In this case, I am inclined to believe that we shall best serve the interests of jail discipline by requesting the Insp: Gen: of Jails to specify the one of the three convicts named, who first had knowledge of the alleged plot and thereon revealed it —

No. UDM

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails (Hon. enter 8th July 1867 No. 6.)

Order thereon 20th July 1867 No. 1162.

From this correspondence the Governor in Council observes that the existence of a plot for the escape of five convicts from the Jail at Neddivattum, was brought to light by three convicts of the same gang. The Inspector General has recommended that a remission of two years of their sentences should be granted to these three convicts.

UDM

2 The Governor in Council is not prepared to grant a remission of sentence to more than one of these convicts; for assuming the

Indicia 1867. Department.

No. 1162

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Feb. 1695.

Dated. 20th July 1867.

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