

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No 1523

Dated 20th July 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

PRISONERS.

Communicating to the Inspector General of Prisons letter from the Government of India forwarding a comparative statement of the heights and weights of---prepared by Surgeon-Captain Buchanan, Superintendent of the Bhagalpur Central Jail, and suggesting that a similar statement should be prepared and used in all Central Jails with a view to enabling Superintendents to decide upon the health of---on admission, &c.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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	CR 5181/97						

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 20th July 1895, No. 1523.

JULY.

Prisoners.

Communicating to the Inspector-General of Prisons letter from the Government of India forwarding a comparative statement of the heights and weights of —, prepared by Surgeon-Captain Buchanan, Superintendent of the Bhagalpur Central Jail, and suggesting that a similar statement should be prepared and used in all central jails with a view to enabling Superintendents to decide upon the health of — on admission, &c.

20TH JULY 1895, No. 1523, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Jails), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 27th June 1895, No. 4-Jails—247.

In paragraph 19 of Home Department Resolution, No. 10-Jails—610-23, dated 9th November 1892, it was stated that the matters dealt with in Chapter VII of the Report of the Jail Committee of 1889 should be provided for in the Jail Code in each Province. One of these matters was the recommendation of the Committee that when there is the least doubt as to the fitness of a prisoner for hard labour on admission into jail, he should be placed on light labour for a time and be brought up weekly for inspection and weighment until he is considered fit to mix with the general body of prisoners. In paragraph 30 of the Resolution of 9th November 1892 the Government of India approved the Committee's suggestion (Chapter XX, paragraph 18, of their report) that careful rules should be laid down for ensuring the attention of the medical officer to the weight test.

2. I am now directed to forward for the information of the Madras Government a comparative statement of the heights and weights of prisoners, prepared by Surgeon-Captain Buchanan, Superintendent of the Bhagalpur Central Jail. The object of the statement, it will be seen, is to ascertain the normal weight of native prisoners as compared with their height. When sufficient experiments have been made to establish the normal relation between weight and height, the Superintendent of a jail will be furnished with means of testing with rapidity and a fair approach to accuracy the general state of health of any individual prisoner on admission. It seems to the Government of India probable that the relation between the measurements and weighments may be found to vary in different parts of the country, but they are of opinion that a statement drawn up from accurate measurements of five or ten thousand prisoners cannot fail to be of use to Superintendents of jails for this purpose. I am accordingly to suggest for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council that such a statement should be prepared and used in all central jails with a view to enabling the Superintendent to decide upon the health of prisoners on admission, the kind of diet on which they should be placed, and the nature and amount of labour on which they should be employed. It will be convenient if the Superintendents of district jails are supplied with copies of the statement prepared at the central jails to which they are affiliated.

ENCLOSURE.

COMPARATIVE Heights and Weights of Prisoners in Bengal Jails, by Surgeon-Captain W. J. Buchanan, M.B., I.M.S., Superintendent, Bhagalpur Central Jail.

The following table is explained below:—

Height.	Weight, Bhagalpur.	Weight, Dr. Jackson's.	Weight, Bombay.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
5 ft.	98	96	95½
5 ft. 1 in.	100	98	99
5 ft. 2 in.	103	100	100½
5 ft. 3 in.	105	103	105
5 ft. 4 in.	107	108	107
5 ft. 5 in.	110	112	110½
5 ft. 6 in.	115	115	..
5 ft. 7 in.	118	118	..
5 ft. 8 in.	122	121	..
5 ft. 9 in.	130	126	..
5 ft. 10 in.	134	130	..
5 ft. 11 in.	136		..

The above table is given to assist medical officers in deciding rapidly upon the health of prisoners on their admission to jail. The weights in lb. given in column 2 are the averages of more than 5,000 prisoners admitted to Bhagalpur Central Jail in years 1890-93, as noted on admission by the medical officer. All these were admitted in "good health." Column 3 gives the scale attributed to Dr. Jackson, which has been used, I believe, in Buxar Jail for years past. Column 4 is taken from Dr. Lyons' Jurisprudence, p. 493. It is the results of measurements of 450 mill operatives in Bombay, chiefly natives of Konkan and the Deccan. Dr. Lyons quotes Lewis as having put the average weight of Bengali prisoners at 103 lb.; those of North-Western Provinces and Oudh at 110 lb. Column 2 above only gives the weights of those admitted in good health. Using this as a standard, it is comparatively easy to note the health on admission. Variations of a few pounds need not be considered.

It is curious that my figures, derived from old admission registers, agree so closely with the scale attributed to Dr. Jackson and in use in Buxar Central Jail. The Bombay figures correspond pretty closely. How far the Bhagalpur figures will apply to all Bengal jails is not certain—probably close enough for all practical purposes,—as at Bhagalpur prisoners are received from many districts, *e.g.*, Monghyr, Purneah, Sonthal Pergunnahs, &c.

Except from jail records there are singularly few figures available for ascertaining the weights of natives of India. For some unknown reason it is not considered necessary to take the weights of recruits for the native army, though age, height and chest girth are recorded on the medical history sheets!

As regards use of the above table, a prisoner whose weight and height correspond to that in the table may fairly be considered to be admitted to jail in "good health."

ORDER—dated 20th July 1895, No. 1523, Judicial.

Communicated to the Inspector-General of Prisons for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Prisons.

„ Surgeon-General.

Erd. A. Baitt.

COMPARATIVE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS OF PRISONERS IN BENGAL JAILS.

BY SURGEON-CAPT. W. J. BUCHANAN, M.B., I.M.S.,

Superintendent, Bhagalpur Central Jail.

THE following table is explained below:—

Height.	Weight, Bhagalpur.	Weight, Dr. Jackson's.	Weight, Bombay.
5ft.	98lbs.	96	95½
5ft. 1in.	100 „	98	99
5ft. 2in.	103 „	100	100½
5ft. 3in.	105 „	103	105
5ft. 4in.	107 „	108	107
5ft. 5in.	110 „	112	110½
5ft. 6in.	115 „	115	
5ft. 7in.	118 „	118	
5ft. 8in.	122 „	121	
5ft. 9in.	130 „	126	
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5ft. 11in.	136 „		

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8011a.

No. ^{4 Jails}
247.

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E.,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Madras.

Home Department.
Jails.

CHIEF SECRETARY
Simla, 27 June 1895.

SIR,

IN paragraph 19 of Home Department Resolution No. ^{to Jails} 610-23, dated the 9th November 1892, it was stated that the matters dealt with in Chapter VII of the Report of the Jail Committee of 1889 should be provided for in the Jail Code in each Province. One of these matters was the recommendation of the Committee that when there is the least doubt as to the fitness of a prisoner for hard labour, on admission into jail, he should be placed on light labour for a time and be brought up weekly for inspection and weighment until he is considered fit to mix with the general body of prisoners. In paragraph 30 of the Resolution of 9th November 1892, the Government of India approved the Committee's suggestion (Chapter XX, paragraph 18 of their report) that careful rules should be laid down for ensuring the attention of the medical officer to the weight test.

2. I am now directed to forward for *the information of the Madras Government* a comparative statement of the heights and weights of prisoners prepared by Surgeon-Captain Buchanan, Superintendent of the Bhagalpur Central Jail. The object of the statement, it will be seen, is to ascertain the normal weight of native prisoners as compared with their height. When sufficient experiments have been made to establish the normal relation between weight and height, the Superintendent of a Jail will be furnished with means of testing with rapidity and a fair approach to accuracy the general state of health of any individual prisoner on admission. It seems to the Government of India probable that the relation between the measurements and weighments may be found to vary in different parts of the country, but they are of opinion that a statement drawn up from accurate measurements of five or ten thousand prisoners cannot fail to be of use to Superintendents of Jails for this purpose. I am accordingly to suggest for *the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council* that such a statement should be prepared and used in all Central Jails with a view to enabling the Superintendent to decide upon the health of prisoners on admission, the kind of diet on which they should be placed, and the nature and amount of labour on which they should be employed. It will be convenient if the Superintendents of District Jails are supplied with copies of the statement prepared at the Central Jails to which they are affiliated.

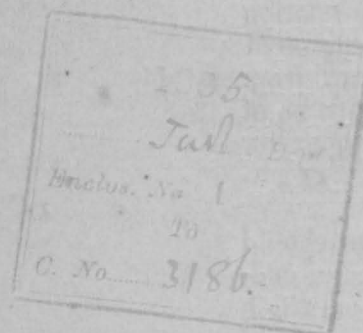
I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. P. Hewett.

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.



Judicial Department

CURRENT NO. 37

J. 110-18 Jan 93 Se.

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80. 1804/5 18. 71. 90

W. L. Report - 138

2286/97

110/93

From, The Govt of India
Home Dept (Tails)

CA d/20th July 1895 No 1523.

order
P.S.

Comd to the S. L. of Prisons
for information and guidance
for ~~successor~~

No. 4 Tails
247

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18/7/95

Dated 27th June
Recd 4th July } 1895
Repd 5th do }

Encs: 187 cc. of the enclosure.

Subject

Forwarding a comparative statement
of the heights and weights of
prisoners prepared by Surgeon-Capt.
Buchanan, Supdt of the Bhagalpur
Central Jail and suggesting that
such a statement should be
prepared & used in all Central
Jails ^{in India only} for the view to enabling the
Supts to decide upon the health of
prisoners on admission &c.

To the S. L. of Prisons 51
S. L. B
Ld/3
3/8/95

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READ AGAIN G. O. No.

DATED

CURRENT NO.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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