

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1540-41

Dated 23 July 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

PROVISION OF CUBICLES IN JAILS.

Informing the Government of India that the speedy provision of cubicles or separate sleeping compartment for each prisoner in jails in this Presidency is impracticable.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[G. 11]
8,592-2-3-05.

ORDINARY, MS.

Journal DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 23-7-85
No. 1540-41

INDEXED.

When given for copying. 26/7
(5177)

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Informing the Govt of Siam
that the speedy provision
of articles in separate sleeping
compartments for such
prisoners in jails in
this Presidency is imprac-
ticable.*

926/7

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.

Note for His Excellency the Governor.

On the note for orders in
G.O. dated 11th May 1895, No. 987 His
Excellency enquired "what is being done
and projected to be done in the matter
of providing the sleeping accommodation
required by the Secretary of State in
the different Jails and how long will it
take^{up} and how much will it cost to put
all our Jails straight".

2. A scheme for converting three
blocks at the Coimbatore Central Jail
into cells and for providing wire-netting
cubicles in the association wards of the
Trichinopoly Central Jail was provision-
ally approved in G.O. dated 19th January
1895, No. 124 and the Public Works Depart-
ment was asked to prepare the necessary
plans and estimates. Plans and estimates
amounting to Rs. 9,800 for the former
have been received and approved by

Government with a slight modification in
G.O. dated 29th May 1895, No. 1159. The
new District Jail which is being built
at Cuddalore is on the cellular system
and 75 cells were added to the Bellary^{of}
Jail and 3 (for females) to the Rajahmundry
Central

I should like to have these figures
checked by the D. P. W. and we
can then tell India, what our
complying with their requests really
means.

to
27 June

Figures checked and
found correct—

C.H.P.

2/95

W.

vide page 131 of the Jail Report

127

of the current year). These figures are of course only an indication of what the cost might be; if they are in any degree approximate it would take nearly 50 years to complete the work with an annual grant of Rs. 25,000; - and 36 1/2 years if the grant were Rs. 50,000. Whether it would be possible to provide funds to that extent every year it is impossible to say.

4. The necessary references were not available until now and hence the delay in the submission of this note.

Re provision of cellules in jails

H. E. The Secy
Submitted to Mr. +
Hon. W. Prose.
2
8-7-95

It is on the hypothesis that the Coim. before case is a fair standard of cost applicable to the case of other jails

There over and above the annual allotment for the Cuddalore Jail

27/8/95.
24-6-95

I am afraid that this is going like a big costly scheme and one in which but slow progress can be made as Govt. cannot afford to throw out a lot of accommodation for convicts and will have to build as well as alter

25

25/8/95

(Keep file intact + hand over to P. O. on 1/10/95)

ORDER. 23rd July 1895 No 1540

The following letter will be despatched to the Govt. of India.

21 July

(from news)

LETTER

16-4-95

No 1541

TO

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Home Department.

SIR,

31 JUL 95
M.S.

I am directed to invite attention to Mr. Thornton's letter dated 16th February 1894, No. 3 Jails/103 and to Mr. Lyall's letter dated 24th April 1894, No. 4 Jails/ 213. In the first of these ^{Letters} Communications the Govt. of India expressed its entire approval of the principle that prisoners should be separately confined by night and desired that ^{this} should be kept in view when new jails were built in the Madras Presidency and otherwise given effect to gradually, as funds permit. In the second letter, it was stated

1917/95

stated that the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India had intimated his desire that the policy of providing cubicles or separate compartments for each prisoner to sleep in should be considered at the earliest convenient opportunity by each local Govt. for every Central or District Jail in its jurisdiction and a scheme prepared for supplying cubicles in the sleeping wards. The Govt. of India remarked that it agreed with the Secretary of State in attaching the greatest importance to the speedy provision of cubicles and desired that the scheme should be carried into effect with energy, so far as funds allow.

2. ^{While} ~~When~~ H.E. the Governor in Council admitted the importance of the principle and the desirability of keeping it in view, when new jails are built and otherwise giving gradual effect to it, as far as funds permit, ^{advisable} ~~he~~ considers that the Govt. of India should be informed that the execution of schemes for supplying separate sleeping accommodation in all the existing Central and District Jails in the Madras Presidency will involve

an

an amount of expenditure so enormous as to render the "speedy provision" of cubicles utterly out of the question.

3. ^{impracticable} It is ~~impossible~~ accurate-ly to estimate what the total cost of the ~~the~~ scheme would be, but the Govt. has now before it sufficient data to make it possible to affirm with confidence that the expenditure involved will be far in excess of ^{fifteen} ~~sixteen~~ lakhs of rupees.

4. I am to say that ~~this~~ statement is based on the following calculations:-

Excluding Hospital and observation cells, the total ordinary accommodation of the Central and District Jails of this Presidency is sufficient for 10,000 convicts. 1,888 of these are already housed ^{all} ~~in~~ separate sleeping ~~apartments~~ ^{cells} and it is thus only necessary to construct cubicles ^{to hold} ~~for~~ the remaining 8,614. A scheme has recently been sanctioned for the conversion into cubicles of three ward blocks in the Coimbatore Central Jail. These blocks have hitherto afforded ^{some} ~~accommodation~~ ^{convicts} for 288 prisoners. The cost of ~~the~~ conversion is estimated at Rs. 9,800 and when it is completed there will only be accommodation for 192 prisoners. On the hypothesis that schemes relating to other

other jails will involve expenditure and loss of accommodation upon the same scale, the total cost of converting existing buildings into cubicles will amount to Rs. 2,71,638 while there will be a total loss of accommodation for 2,804 prisoners. The present accommodation in Central and District Jails is barely sufficient and it is essential that it should not be reduced. To the cost of conversion must therefore be added the ^{expenditure involved in} ~~cost of~~ supplying the deficiency in accommodation which ^{will result} involves. In the Salem Central Jail an estimate was recently sanctioned for the construction of cells to hold 50 convicts, the cost of which was Rs. 18,700. Adopting these figures as a standard the ^{necessary for} expenditure involved in supplying cellular accommodation for 2,804 prisoners, would be Rs. 10,48,696. The total cost of the scheme and its consequences would thus be Rs. 13,20,334. The foregoing figures however include statistics relating to the Cuddalore District Jail, the ordinary accommodation in which is sufficient for 205 convicts; ^{these} 6 of these are already housed in cells and the cost of converting into cubicles, the blocks occupied by the remaining

This portion has been added to the draft to correct the mistake of counting Cuddalore twice over
16-7-35

remaining 302 would be Rs. ⁶⁵²³ ~~8,539~~; while that of replacing the lost accommodation ^{Rs. 25,498} ~~Rs. 25,498~~. The total thus comes to ~~Rs. 31,507~~ ^{31,716} but as a matter of fact it has been found necessary to construct an entirely new cellular jail ^{at Cuddalore} in lieu of the present buildings and the estimated cost of this measure which is now under execution is Rs. 2,69,300. Substituting this amount for Rs. ²⁰⁶ ~~31,507~~ it will be found that the total cost of providing separate sleeping accommodation in all Central and District Jails comes to ^{Rs. 15,57,357} ~~Rs. 15,57,357~~. The grand total thus comes to ^{more than 15} ~~very nearly 16 lakhs.~~ 5. I am to point out, however, that this estimate is very much below the mark, for the following reasons. Firstly, the calculation assumes that the loss of accommodation will not on the average be greater than that in the Coimbatore case, but, in that instance, the conversion was in fact a very simple one and it is ~~probable~~ ^{probable} that, in the great majority of cases, the loss of accommodation will be greater, and the expense of conversion higher. Secondly, it has been assumed that the additional accommodation required could be provided within the existing jail enclosures, which would ^{always} ~~certainly~~ not be the case. Fresh ground would be needed and fresh outer walls, a

most

most expensive item - as well as larger establishments in consequence of the larger areas. Further, it is conceivable that fresh jails might be needed, for it is questionable whether all jails are so situated as to be capable of enlargement. How disproportionate the cost of constructing new buildings is as compared with that of converting existing buildings and utilizing space within existing enclosures may be inferred from the figures given above as regards the Cuddalore Jail. H. E. the Governor in Council is therefore disposed to consider it by no means improbable that the total cost would reach 30 lakhs.

6. The Govt. is already pledged to the construction of a cellular jail at Cuddalore at an estimated cost of over $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, for which a provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made in the budget of the current year. It will thus be necessary for at least the next two or three years to set aside for expenditure upon this work nearly all the surplus funds which can be placed at the disposal of the Jail department and it is not probable that more than comparatively trifling

trifling sums will be available for expenditure upon schemes for providing separate sleeping accommodation in existing jails. Assuming that it is possible to devote an annual sum of one lakh to this object and the state of provincial finances is at present such as to make this an outside estimate it would probably take over thirty years to give effect to the wishes of the Govt. of India and the Secretary of State.

7. H.E. the Governor in Council trusts that he has now shown that the speedy provision of cubicles as desired in Mr. Lyall's letter dated the 24th April 1894 in all the Central and District Jails in this Presidency is impracticable and that the utmost ~~which~~ ^{that} can be done is to keep the principle in view when new jails are built and otherwise give effect to it gradually, as funds permit, ~~as was suggested in Mr. Thompson's letter of the 16th February 1894.~~

from records
16.4.95
28
18/7/95

*Re provision of
cubicles in Jails*

*H. M. + H. E. the Gov.
and / (from India).*

DESPATCH
Dr.

*submitted to H. E. for perusal
of C. S. alterations in the draft*

*14/7
23/7*

*21/7 slip
22/7*

Then given for copying _____
Then copied _____ } 189
Then examined _____
Then signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.