

Judicial. (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 2377.

Dated 19th Nov: 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

ARMED POLICE.

Communicating to the Inspector-General of Police, for remarks letter from the Government of India, stating that the Madras Government should endeavour to keep down the number of -- and to revise existing arrangements so as to reduce the number of men who are already in possession of fire arms.

met.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C 5120			96				
Cw 1426	297		13.5.97				

Confidential.

No. 703

From

L. M. Thornton, Esq.,

Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Home Department.

(Police)

CHIEF SECRETARY
Madras, the 26 October 1895.
26 OCT. 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1399, dated the 4th July 1895, soliciting sanction to the supply of 980 additional smooth-bore carbines for the Madras Police. This request is made on the following grounds:-

- an increase of 165 Head Constables and 824 Constables to the District Executive force;
- the need for arming the whole of the Tiruppatur and Vaniyanbadi Police, Salem District, and His Excellency the Governor's guard at Ootacamund;
- the maintenance at those District and sub-division Head-Quarters where reserves are armed with snider rifles of twenty and ten breech-loading smooth-bore carbines, respectively, for the instruction of recruits and station-house officers class and for the use of men on escort duty; and
- the issue of departmental orders increasing the number of carbines required to be kept in certain cases.

2. In reply I am to say that the information obtained last year from the Local Governments and Administrations showed that there were the following number of rifles

rifles and breech-loading smooth-bore in the larger Provinces:-

Madras...	8612	i.e.	38.4	p.c.	of the whole force (including officers)
Bombay ..	5443	"	29.0	"	"
Bengal...	5222	"	21.7	"	"
N.W.P & Oudh.	9112	"	35.4	"	"
Punjab...	9844	"	48.3	"	"

The case of the Punjab as being a Frontier Province is exceptional and the Government of India anticipate that the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh will, in accordance with a request made by the Government of India, return to the Ordnance Department a considerable number of the arms which have been kept in reserve in those Provinces. The proportion of rifles and breech-loading smooth-bore in the Madras Presidency is very high as compared with other provinces. The Government of India have, I am to say, had under their consideration the question of the extent to which natives of India in the army, police and other Departments of the public service are armed with fire arms as compared with the number of the British force available in the country, and have arrived at the conclusion that it is necessary to exercise a strict control over the number of such arms issued to the police. The annual return called for in my No. 2 police-281, dated the 30th April last, was prescribed with the object of securing to the Government of India accurate information as to the armament of the police in each year.

3. If the 980 smooth-bore sniders for the issue of which sanction is asked in your letter under reply are supplied to the Madras Police the percentage of the force armed with rifles and breech-loading smooth-bore will be raised to 42.8. The Government of India do not consider it desirable that so large a proportion of the police in the Madras presidency should be armed with fire arms, and it appears to the Governor General in Council that the number already in the hands of the police there might be very considerably reduced without any risk to the efficiency of the force or any danger to the public safety. In these circumstances His Excellency in Council is anxious that the Madras Government should reconsider the whole question of the armament of the police in the Presidency and endeavour,

with reference to the wish and policy of the Government of India to keep down the number of armed police, to revise existing arrangements so as to reduce the number of men who are already in possession of fire-arms. prima facie there seems no good reason why the percentage of armed police in Madras should exceed that found sufficient in Bengal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. M. Thornton

Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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1040-24. 5. 95 85. 1. 1040
1124-24. 5. 95 85. 1. 1040
papers

From

The Secy to the
Govt of India

Home

(Police)

No 203

are

Date 21-10-95

Recd 26-10-95

Regd 29-10-95

Subject

Noting that the leaders
of the should endeavour
to keep down the number
of armed police and to
revise existing arrangements
so as to reduce the number
of men who are already
in possession of fire arms

Read again 24. 7. 95 1040 J.D.
.. 4 July 95: 1398/9.
+ Cu. 5063/95

Order 19-11-95
Mis No 2377 16/11/95

The letter from the Govt of India
will be communicated to the S. G. P.
Police for remarks.

12-11-95 11/11/95 14/11/95

The S. G. P. India. A. copied 20/11/95
dated 22/11/95

(Forwards)

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

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