

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 12
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 20.2.1989
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் [Signature]

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

பொதுப் பணித் துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	10842	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	11-2-1890	198.

[Signature]

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

1084

20TH MARCH 1890, No. 526, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 25th June 1889, No. 1087, paragraph 25, Judicial.

ABSTRACT.—Directing the Inspector-General to institute a special inquiry into the unhealthiness of the Párvatipur Jail during 1888, the mortality in which was the highest in the year.

READ—also the following paper:—

From Colonel C. A. PORTEOUS, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 5th February 1890, No. 50.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with instructions contained in paragraph 25 of G.O., No. 1087, of 25th June 1889, I proceeded to Párvatipur, made a close inspection of the hill jail there with the District Surgeon (Dr. Sturmer) and instituted an inquiry into the causes of its unhealthiness with the following results.

II. There were 239 prisoners in the jail when I visited it, and, judging from appearances, their health was decidedly *bad*; in this the District Surgeon agreed with me. Of these 239 prisoners, 196 came from the upper plateau of Jeypore beyond the ghâts, while only 43 came from the country below the ghâts—Gunupore, &c.

Of the former (196) at the time of my inspection, 30 were in indifferent and 22 in bad health.

Of the latter (43), 6 were in indifferent and 7 in bad health.

III. The number of admissions into hospital was 86 with 14 deaths, and 13 of these deaths were of men from *above* the ghâts.

IV. The *daily average* number of prisoners was 193·95.

* Cholera	1
Diarrhoea	2
Peritonitis	2
Anæmia	1
Pneumonia	1
Apoplexy	1
Jaundice	1

Total .. 9

Of these 134·27 were undergoing sentences of six months and under, among whom there were 9* deaths. 35·37 were under sentences from six to twelve months, among whom was 1† death.

† Cholera	1
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‡ Dysentery	2
---------------------	---

17·18 were under sentences from one to two years, among whom there were two‡ deaths.

§ Berri-berri	1
Diarrhoea	1

Total .. 2

The remainder 7·13 were undergoing sentences of two years and upwards, among whom there were two§ deaths.

V. The average number of prisoners under 16 years of age was 2·90, among whom there were no deaths. Between 16 and 40 years of age, the average number was—

Males	151·86
Females	2·06

among whom there were 9 deaths. From 40 to 60, the average number was 31.05 males only, among whom there were 4 deaths.

Over 60 years of age, the average number was 6.08, with one death. The ratio of deaths was about 72 per thousand.

VI. It is an undoubted fact that the prisoners come in, especially those from Jeypore above ghâts, in decidedly *bad* health, and the largest number of deaths this year (1889) is among the short-sentenced prisoners of six months and under.

VII. While admitting that the prisoners come into jail in *bad* health, there are other factors, which, in my opinion, must render this jail unhealthy.

1. The surrounding wall of the jail is too high and too close to the buildings and therefore greatly impedes perfilation—an absolute necessity for a healthy jail.

2. The sleeping accommodation within the walls of the jail was intended for a maximum of 143 prisoners, whereas when I visited it, there were nearly one-half as many again, 213 prisoners. Accommodation for these extra 70 prisoners inside the jail was obtained by erecting two temporary sheds to contain 26 prisoners each, and by walling up two of the work-sheds. The *open* space thus, within the walls, intended for and fully required for 143 prisoners, was diminished by these two large temporary sheds, and 70 more prisoners were added. I am therefore of opinion that the interior of the jail is overcrowded by *buildings*, as well as by *prisoners*, and that this must cause an unhealthy state of things.

3. For years past, the night-soil has been buried in trenches (3 feet $\times$ 1½ feet) in the garden *too near* the jail, and as the ground on which the jail stands gets waterlogged in heavy rains, I much fear that the water of the wells must become tainted from the too close proximity of the night-soil trenches. I can find no recorded analysis of the water.

Rule 1199, Jail Code.

4. The hospital accommodation is *insufficient*; the hospital is supposed to contain 7 prisoners; it held only 5 on my visits, but 8 men in *very bad* health were ordered into hospital by the District Surgeon at my inspection. The hospital furniture too is insufficient and iron cots are absolutely necessary.

5. The apothecary in medical charge does not appear to pay sufficient attention to the prisoners. In my opinion his want of attention has amounted to *gross neglect*; prisoners with sores on their legs, ulcers on their testes and on sides of thighs, bubos, &c., were kept in fetters and at work, when they ought to have been unfettered and in hospital.

If unfortunate prisoners with bad sores, &c., patent to every eye were treated thus—fever, diarrhoea and dysentery cases must have fared even worse. In a measure, I attribute the present ill health of the prisoners to want of medical attention.

6. The grain, obolum and raggi is of good quality, carefully cleaned, pounded and ground; but I doubt if sufficient care is taken in mixing the raggi flour and water, and in cooking it. I noticed, with the District Surgeon, several lumps in the cooked raggi ready for issue as puddings. On opening these lumps they were found to contain dry raggi flour, pointing to bad mixing or cooking; they were sufficient, I think, to irritate the weak stomachs of men admitted to prison in bad health.

7. The prisoners sleep on the floor of their wards, nearly level with the ground. This cannot be healthy in a low level lying jail. Pyals were ordered last year, but the *jailer* informed me that they were not built owing to want of proper clay—a somewhat poor excuse; they will have to be built now of stone or brick, for they are absolutely necessary.

8. Prisoners coming from the higher altitude and cooler climate of Jeypore above ghâts have to sit out daily under the broiling sun of the plains (or with little shelter from rain) to eat their meals. I consider that this must be very trying to men coming into jail in admittedly bad health. The *sun* was very trying and powerful in the middle of the day in the cold weather, and I noticed that the prisoners felt it. What must it be in the hot weather!

9. The nominal Superintendent of this Jail is the Senior Assistant Magistrate and Agent; but this officer, owing to other important duties in his extensive charge, is seldom at Párvatipur, the consequence being that the jailor and other jail subordinates are left pretty much to themselves.

10. I do not consider that the jailor Mr. Leonard (formerly a warder in this jail) is competent to hold charge of such an important jail as this. The deputy jailor, an old sepoy, is very inefficient. The apothecary is apathetic and negligent.

11. Any *one* of the above causes is sufficient to seriously affect the health of a jail. When they all exist, the unhealthiness of this jail cannot be matter of surprise.

VIII. I have given such orders, as are within my power, to remedy the present state of things, viz. :—

1. That the temporary sheds *within* the jail walls be removed and that, if necessary, such be erected *outside* the jail walls on the jail ground; and that the work-sheds be opened up and confined to their proper purposes (work) during the day, and not be used as sleeping wards at night.

2. That no night-soil be hereafter buried in the garden, but that such should be carted out and buried at a distance from the jail; and

that the jail water be sent at once to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, and that there should be an analysis of the water at least once a year.

3. That iron cots and an almirah be at once provided for the hospital.

4. That the apothecary be required to go round *every* morning with the jailor and examine the prisoners and inquire into their state of health.

5. That the raggi be *thoroughly* mixed with cold or warm water before it is put on the fire to be boiled; this will probably prevent lumps we saw forming.

6. That pyals, 1 foot 4 inches high by 2 feet 6 inches wide, be at once built to keep the men off the ground.

7. That steps will be taken to send a better jailor and deputy jailor to this jail.

IX. I further beg to make the following recommendations, which are not within my power to carry out, without the orders of Government :—

1. That the present wall surrounding the jail be reduced in height to 9 feet.

2. That the office be removed from the interior of the jail, and be located in a room to be erected over the main gate and guard room.

3. That the hospital be extended to twice its present size.

4. That verandahs be erected on one side of each barrack, as shelter for prisoners from sun and bad weather while eating their meals.

5. That such a large important and for years notoriously unhealthy jail requires to be in charge of a better paid official than a jailor on Rs. 75 per mensem; and I would therefore recommend that a senior apothecary of good standing and undoubted ability be appointed in the combined capacity of jailor and medical officer, on a salary of at least Rs. 200 per mensem.

X. In conclusion, I cannot help remarking that the prolonged unhealthiness of this jail, and the incapacity and negligence of the apothecary in charge, are matters for the investigation of the head of the Medical department.

XI. I enclose a copy of my inspection memorandum on this jail for the information of Government.

ORDER—dated 20th March 1890, No. 526, Judicial.

The report regarding the condition of the Párvatipur Jail, submitted by the Inspector-General of Jails in the foregoing letter, discloses a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, discreditable to all the officers charged with the immediate control of the institution. The Senior Assistant Collector, Mr. Elwin, who is *ex-officio* Superintendent, will be called on for an explanation of his apparent neglect of the jail and

for remarks generally on the Inspector-General's letter. The Surgeon-General with Government will submit remarks on the past conduct of the apothecary on which Colonel Porteous animadverts, and it should be stated whether the services of a warrant Medical officer can be made available for the combined office of Superintendent and Medical officer. The Government would not object to give a salary of Rs. 250 for this purpose, if necessary.

2. The main cause of the unhealthiness arising among the convicts after admission is evidently the overcrowding. The orders issued by the Inspector-General and summarised in paragraph 8 of his report seem judicious, but there is a further remedial measure which is within the Inspector-General's power and which should be immediately carried out, viz., the transfer to the Vizagapatam District Jail of all prisoners belonging to the plains, of whom there were 43 at the time of the Inspector-General's inspection. Any such prisoners received in future should be similarly transferred and the jail reserved for hill prisoners, so long as it can be filled with them.

3. What the actual capacity of the Párvatipur Jail now is cannot be ascertained from the papers before Government. It was originally built to provide accommodation for a total number of 105 prisoners. In Mr. Grimes' letter of the 4th June 1886, No. 162, it is stated that the capacity of the jail had been extended so as to enable 178 prisoners to be received, but the details of this calculation are not clear. In Statement A annexed to the Jail Report for 1887, the accommodation shown was for 204 prisoners, which was reduced in the report for 1888 to 143. It does not appear how any of these figures were arrived at. The actual dimensions of the several blocks will now be reported, with full information as to any temporary sheds outside the jail, so that the capacity of the jail may be authoritatively fixed. If, as appears to be the case, the space is insufficient for the number of hill prisoners received annually, addition to it should be made by permanent buildings and not by temporary sheds, even though placed outside the walls. Estimates should be immediately prepared and submitted for carrying out the first four proposals enumerated in paragraph 9 of the Inspector-General's foregoing letter.

(True Extract.)

J. Grimes
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

- " Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
- " Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, with inspection memorandum, in original, to be returned.
- " Public Works Department.

P.W. 3344
Govt. of {1890} Madras.
JUDICIAL.

No 1084 dated 11 April 1890

Communicated to
the S. S. I. Circle, for
submission of the requisite
estimates.

Issued

Recd. 2-4-90 Encl.

G.O., 20th March 1890, No. 526.

MARCH.

Parvatipur Jail.

Passing orders on the report of the Inspector-General of Jails regarding the condition of the --.

S. S. I. Circle

26/3/90

3.4.90

5.4.90

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Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

„ Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

„ Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, with inspection

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Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of {1890} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

No. 108412 of 11 April 1890

communicated
to the S. & I circle
for submission of
the requisite
estimates.

(sd) R. R. E. D. B.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

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