

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 8
(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 4.9.1.
(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10/11

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	அச்சகம் பலவகை
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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 26th August 1892, No. 1553, Judicial.

READ—also the following papers :—

From A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., C.S., Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 26th April 1893, No. 1830.

I have the honour to address Government on the subject of the amalgamation of one or other of the District Jails on the East Coast with the Rajahmundry Central Jail now that the opening of the East Coast Railway has already improved or will shortly improve the means of communication.

2. The daily average population of the Rajahmundry Central Jail during each of the last five years is compared in the margin with the accommodation available.

			Rajahmundry Central Jail.	
			Daily average population.	Total accommodation.
1888	..	..	527.10	1,101
1889	..	..	520.75	1,101
1890	..	..	530.33	1,101
1891	..	..	543.52	1,101
1892	..	..	645.66	1,134
Average	..	..	553.47	..

The increased accommodation in 1892 was due to the completion of the quarantine ward, and upon the 76 close prison cells which are now nearly ready being made over by the Public Works Department, the total accommodation will be raised to 1,210. Meantime the population shows a tendency to fall and on the 15th instant was 622.

3. It will thus be seen that though Rajahmundry is classed as a first-class Central Jail and has accommodation equal to Vellore, its average population is less than that of the two second-class Central Jails. In consequence the rate per head of the establishment charges remains much higher than in any other Central Jail and there is no possibility of further reduction. The contingent charges, such as lighting, postage, telegrams, uniform of establishment, &c., are also nearly, if not quite, as high for an average of 553 prisoners as they would be for an average of double that number, and in this and other directions it is decidedly uneconomical to keep up a jail which is only half filled.

4. The same statement holds good in regard to manufactures. A large body of prisoners can be more profitably employed than a small one. At present the large area of land round the Rajahmundry Central Jail is not turned to proper account, and the Superintendent's explanation is that he has not sufficient men to work it. However this may be, it is true that the expenditure of convict labour in unproductive work, viz., as convict officers, servants, cooks, water-drawers, scavengers, is proportionately greater in a jail with a small population than it is in one with a large population.

5. On grounds of economy, therefore, it is highly desirable that as the Rajahmundry Central Jail cannot be closed, its population should be increased by one of the small District Jails near it being closed and the prisoners therefrom sent to Rajahmundry.

6. There are five District Jails which will be situated within more or less accessible distance of Rajahmundry when the East Coast Railway is open as far as Ganjam. These are Guntur, Vizagapatam, Berhampur, Parvatipuram and Russelkonda. The last two are kept up for hill men and are also 80 and 50 miles respectively from the proposed line of rail. They must, therefore, be retained. Vizagapatam is the District Jail of a large and important district and is at the district head-quarters. It happens to be particularly well built and it usually has a considerable population. For these reasons, therefore, it seems desirable to retain this jail.

7. There remain the Guntur and Berhampur District Jails. The first is not situated at the district head-quarters; its buildings are old and insecure as noticed below, and it is only 110½ miles from Rajahmundry, viz., 18 miles on the Southern Mahratta Railway and 92½ miles from Bezwada on the East Coast Railway. It is, however, a very healthy jail. Berhampur, on the other hand, will be, when the rail is open, 236 miles by rail from Rajahmundry. It has good buildings, but it has been for many years very unhealthy. There is no separate sub-jail at Guntur or Berhampur, and if either of these district jails is closed, a sub-jail will have to be re-opened.

8. The number of convicts directly committed to the Guntur District Jail during the five years ending 1892 has averaged 489 * per annum. From the average number of 489 admissions has to be deducted the number of prisoners sentenced to 30 days and under who would have in future to remain in a sub-jail at Guntur. These are reported to have averaged only 15 per annum. A certain further number ought to be deducted to represent those prisoners hitherto admitted into the Guntur District Jail under sentences of one year and upwards who have now to be removed to a Central Jail. Assuming their number, which is not accurately ascertainable, to be 24 per annum, the total number of prisoners who would have to be moved from Guntur to Rajahmundry in consequence of the closure of the District Jail would be 450 per annum.

9. At the usual fare of 2 pies per mile, third class, plus an estimated charge of 2 annas a head for the steam ferry over the Godavari river, the cost of moving a single prisoner from Guntur to Rajahmundry would be Rs. 1-4-5, or with the return ticket granted on release Rs. 2-8-10. The proportionate strength of the escort necessary to guard the prisoners varies inversely with the number of prisoners to be escorted. Thus for one prisoner two constables are required, for two prisoners, the same number, and for a larger number of prisoners, a decreasing ratio of guard. It will, therefore, be a fair average to assume that the number of the escort will be equal to the number of prisoners to be escorted. There will thus be 450 prisoners at Rs. 1-4-5 each each journey and 450 constables at the same, and the total cost of transfers would thus be Rs. 2,296-14-0 annually.

10. The average cost of establishment at the Guntur District Jail during the five years ending 1892 has been Rs. 4,884 per annum. This would be saved. But from this gross saving has to be deducted the cost of extra warder establishment required at the Rajahmundry Central Jail to guard an additional daily average population of 166, the average of the five years ending with 1892. The cost of this extra establishment at one warder per eleven convicts would be Rs. 1,428 per annum as shown in the margin. As it would also be necessary to re-open a sub-jail at Guntur, a further deduction of Rs. 108 a year should be made on account of a peon on Rs. 6 per mensem (unless the Tahsildar can furnish one) and a scavenger on Rs. 3 per mensem. By these deductions the saving in establishment, which would be effected by the closing of the Guntur District Jail, is reduced to Rs. 3,348 a year, leaving a net saving, after cost of transfer is allowed for, of Rs. 1,051-2-0.

1 Head warder on Rs. 12	Rs. 12
1 " " on Rs. 10	10
1 First-class warder on Rs. 9	9
4 Second-class warders on Rs. 8	32
8 Third-class warders on Rs. 7	56
15	119 x 12
	= Rs. 1,428

11. This, however, is evidently only the minimum saving. The cost of transfers are undoubtedly over-estimated above, because all prisoners from courts lying between Guntur and Rajahmundry would go straight to the latter jail and so the cost of moving them and their escorts would be reduced. Thus all prisoners from the district head-quarters, Masulipatam, would go direct to Rajahmundry and their removal thither would cost little more than their transfer to Guntur does now. Again there would certainly be a larger economy than is allowed for above, as a considerable part of the average outlay of Rs. 1,336 under contingencies would be saved. On the whole the closing of the jail would probably save Rs. 2,000 per annum independently of increased economy and efficiency at Rajahmundry.

12. The average number of convicts directly committed to the Berhampur District Jail during the three years 1887, 1891 and 1892 has been 431 per annum. The figures relating to 1888 to 1890 are omitted as they were greatly affected by the famine. The Berhampur Sub-Jail was only closed in December 1891, and the number of sub-jail prisoners received during the year 1892 was 60. Making a small allowance for long-term prisoners, as in the case of Guntur, the total number who would have to be moved from Berhampur to Rajahmundry in the event of the District Jail being closed would be 360.

13. The cost of moving a single prisoner from Berhampur to Rajahmundry and of furnishing him with a return ticket would be just Rs. 6. For 360 prisoners and an equal escort of 360 constables, the total cost of transfers would be thus Rs. 4,320 per annum.

14. The average cost of establishment of the Berhampur District Jail during the three years ending 1892 has been Rupees 5,171 a year. The average additional population to be expected at Rajahmundry, calculated on the same period, is 153-10, but would really be less, the present population of the Berhampur jail being 95 (15th instant). An addition of 10 warders would thus probably be sufficient at Rajahmundry and they would cost Rs. 900 per annum. Allowing Rs. 108 in addition for sub-jail establishment, it will be seen that the net result of closing the Berhampur District Jail would be an increased expenditure of Rs. 157 per annum. This increase would doubtless be more than balanced by savings under contingencies, but probably some increase would be needed by the Ganjam Police reserve in consequence of the larger amount of escort work to be done. In the case of Guntur, no such increase would probably be needed, as the real amount of escort work would be little if at all increased.

15. On grounds of economy, therefore, the balance of advantage lies in the direction of closing the Guntur District Jail. I now proceed to the question of buildings.

16. On the 27th August 1892 the Superintendent of the Guntur District Jail reported that the buildings of the jail were inspected on the 22nd idem by the Assistant Engineer, Kistna Western division, with a view to the execution of some necessary repairs, and that the Assistant Engineer considered that all the blocks, except that known as the reconvicted block and the hospital, were unsafe and unfit for the custody of prisoners. On the 2nd September, I directed the Superintendent to request the Assistant Engineer to furnish at an early date a report in writing regarding the state of the buildings.

17. On the 3rd October 1892, the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, forwarded to me a report from the Executive Engineer, Kistna Western Division, dated 24th September 1892, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. From this it appeared that the Executive Engineer was substantially of the same opinion as the Assistant Engineer that the jail buildings were unsafe. In forwarding the report the Superintending Engineer remarked that the defects noticed in the wood work, &c., could be

repaired, and that if there had not been many escapes from the jail in the past, the insecurity due to the material of the walls was perhaps not of much importance.

18. As two officers of the Public Works Department had, after inspection, pronounced the buildings unsafe, it appeared inadvisable to leave the matter in this state, and I accordingly arranged to meet the Superintending Engineer at Guntūr and to inspect the buildings with him. This I did on the 10th November. The conclusion at which Mr. Martin and I came was that the wood work of many of the buildings requires considerable repair and renewal, but that so far as the material of the walls and the plan of construction go, they are substantially safe or at least as safe as they have been at any time during the last 20 or 30 years.

19. It may here be explained that all the sleeping barracks of the Guntūr District Jail, except the reconvicted block, are old buildings, the roofs so low that a prisoner can reach them by mounting on the window. It would thus be easy for any prisoner to get out of his ward by pushing aside a couple of reapers and removing the tiles. The actual number of escapes in the last five years has, however, been small as shown in the margin.

20. If the Guntūr District Jail is not closed, it will be necessary to execute considerable repairs to the wood work of all the buildings, an additional store-room and workshop is needed, and the provision of an outer main gate, there being at present only one, is very desirable. Even then the barracks will not be secure.

21. The buildings of the Berhampur District Jail are in good order and of good design. The two things most needed in the jail are the provision of a proper female yard separated from sight of, and intercourse with, the male prisoners, and the removal of a part of the main wall further back so as to improve the ventilation of the sleeping barracks. The present Superintendent formulated a very good scheme to provide for the women by locating them in an entirely detached building, in a separate enclosure, originally intended for a workshop but never so used. I approved of this so long ago as 16th May 1892, but owing to the extremely dilatory proceedings of the Public Works Department in this district, I have not yet succeeded in procuring the plans and estimates in spite of repeated reminders. I have not as yet taken any action regarding the proposed throwing back of the main wall pending settlement of the question of the retention of the jail.

22. It will thus be seen that in the matter of buildings also the balance of advantage is in favour of retaining the Berhampur District Jail and of closing that at Guntūr.

23. Almost the only counter-consideration is the matter of health, Guntūr having shown a uniformly low death-rate while Berhampur has long been unhealthy. The site of the latter jail is, however, good and the reason why it is unhealthy is not apparent. I do not think there is any reason why it should continue to show a high death-rate, and I am not disposed to recommend the abandonment of the jail on this ground alone.

24. In conclusion, it will be observed that as the East Coast Railway is already open to Rajahmundry, the Guntūr District Jail could be closed at once and the economy proposed at once secured, whereas the line will not be open to Berhampur for 18 months or so more.

25. I therefore beg to recommend that the necessary steps may now be taken to close the District Jail at Guntūr, the prisoners now received there, if sentenced to over 30 days, being sent to Rajahmundry. If this recommendation is accepted, prisoners from the Markapur and Cumbum taluks of Kurnool would also go to Rajahmundry if the Kurnool jail is closed.

1888	..	..	..	..	1
1889	..	..	..	..	1
1890	..	..	..	..	Nil.
1891	..	..	..	..	Nil.
1892	..	..	..	..	1

26. Pending the decision of Government on this question, I have asked the Collector of the Kistna district to defer taking the final steps for the acquisition of the land round the jail at Guntūr which was sanctioned in G.O., dated 26th August 1892, No. 1553.

From J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Acting District Magistrate, Kistna, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Masulipatam, 3rd June 1893, No. 482.

In returning herewith letter, No. 1830, dated 26th April 1893, from the Inspector-General of Jails, together with its enclosure forwarded to me with your endorsement, dated 9th May 1893, No. 843, I have the honour to say that I am entirely in accord with the Inspector-General in advocating the abolition of the District Jail at Guntūr.

2. I forward herewith copy of a letter, No. 474, dated 31st May 1893, from the Superintendent of Police of this district showing that the measure will, if anything, increase the effective strength of Police at his disposal.

3. Apart from this and from the financial reasons adduced by the Inspector-General of Jails in favour of the change, I am of opinion that discipline is probably not and perhaps cannot be as rigorously enforced in a small District Jail like Guntūr as in a Central Jail.

ENCLOSURE.

From H. G. PRENDERGAST, Esq., District Superintendent of Police, Kistna, to the District Magistrate, Kistna, dated Masulipatam, 31st May 1893, No. 474.

In reply to your reference on C. No. 931-Mag. of 1893, I have the honour to state that the abolition of the District Jail at Guntūr will not increase the escort work of the Police, as both Guntūr and Rajahmundry are less than 12 hours' run from Bezvada. On the contrary there will be some slight saving to this district owing to the escort of prisoners taken to courts under the Prisoners' Testimony Act having then to be done by the Godāvāri Police.

The only increase to the Police of this district that will be required will be the addition to the treasury guard of Guntūr of the strength by which it was cut down when the sub-jail was abolished. I enclose a statement showing the cost of this addition per annum. There will also have to be an increase in the allotment for railway fares for escorts, the distance to be travelled by rail being greater. I am inclined to think the Inspector-General of Jails has under-estimated the proportion of escort of prisoners. This is a matter which is capable of being verified by ascertaining the actual strength of each party admitted during, say, the last five years. But any slight mistake in that calculation will not detract very much from the value of the proposal. The enclosures are returned.

Cost of abolished Sub-Jail Guard, Guntūr.

	RS.	A.	P.
Total amount per annum for 1 first class and 2 second class (2 constables)	264	0	0
Cost of clothing for 3 men, Rs. 10 per annum	30	0	0
Amount of contingencies at Rs. 5 per cent. on pay	13	3	2
Pensionary charges at Rs. 7-8-0 per cent. on pay	21	12	10
Supervision charges at Rs. 10 per cent. on pay	26	6	5
Total	355	6	5

ORDER—dated 29th June 1893, No. 1321, Judicial.

The abolition of the Guntūr District Jail is sanctioned. The requisite notice should be given to the establishment at once.

2. The District Magistrate of Kistna should have reported the arrangements to be made for re-establishing the Subsidiary Jail at Guntūr; he will be requested to do so

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now. The District Magistrate will also state his views as to the disposal of the abandoned District Jail buildings; they should not, however, be alienated until the closure of the jail is found to be a success.

3. The Inspector-General of Police will consider and report whether the abolition of the jail will render any increase of the Police force necessary.

4. G.O. dated 26th August 1892, No. 1553, Judicial, is cancelled.

(True Extract.)

W. H. P. S.
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.
" District Magistrate, Kistna.
" Inspector-General of Police.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Collector of Kistna.

Govt. of {1893} Madras.
JUDICIAL.

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12 1932 Waf 25 July 1893.

Communicated
to the Dypty Engineers
I & II Circles. for
information.

Issued 10 S.C.
Recd. 15. 7. 93 Encl.

G.O., 29th June 1893, No. 1321.

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District Jail, Guntur.

Sanctioning the abolition of the —, requesting the Collector of Kistna to report the arrangements to be made for re-establishing the subsidiary jail there and his views as to the disposal of the abandoned District Jail buildings, and the Inspector-General of Police to report whether any increase of the Police force will be necessary.

S. & I Circle.
S. & II Circle

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