

Gobt. of {1894} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

No. 1838 W. d. 24 July 1894.

Communicated
to officers concerned in
continuation of G.O. No. 1978
W. dated 2nd August 1893.

(Sd) J. P.
W.

Issued

Recd.

Encl

G.O., 28th June 1894, No. 1621.

JUNE.

Indian Factories Act.

Communicating to the Public Works Department and certain officers reply of the Secretary of State to letter from the Government of India forwarding and briefly reviewing the provincial reports on the working of the — during the year 1892.

Suptg: Engineers
I, II, & V Circles.
Comm: Engrs for Railways.

It will, however, be observed that there are only 653 factories (including seasonal factories) in all the Provinces (omitting Assam); they employ on an average nearly 317,000 hands daily, of whom nearly 43,600, or 13·7 per cent., are women, and less than 19,000, or 6 per cent., are children under 14.

No report has been received from Assam for 1892. In that Province there are very few factories, other than tea-gardens, which are regulated by a special law (Act I of 1882) and are expressly exempted by the Factories Act from its operation. Reports from this Province will, however, be submitted in future years.

3. The most important of the reports submitted are those which deal with the condition of the operatives. Your Lordship will observe that there is a general consensus of opinion that, in respect of health, wages and material prosperity, factory hands are, on the whole, better off than persons of the corresponding classes not employed on factories.

The reports show that the sanitary condition of, and sanitary arrangements on, factories are as a rule, satisfactory, and that the provisions of the Act and rules have been generally complied with.

4. We propose to issue instructions regarding the desirability of more frequent inspections, especially by Medical Officers, and of a fuller investigation of accidents, which we regret to say are more numerous than they should be. As, however, the rules under the Factories Act of 1891 were only introduced during 1892 in most Provinces, the results of inspections during the year are, on the whole, not unsatisfactory.

5. With reference to paragraph 2 of your despatch of 1st June 1893, we desire to say that it has not been considered necessary to issue executive orders of the nature of general instructions to Inspectors, inasmuch as the Act and the rules issued thereunder, which it is the duty of these officers to enforce, clearly indicate the matters to which their attention should be directed.

No. 14 (Judicial), dated	7th June 1892.
" 19 "	9th Aug. "
" 27 "	30th Nov. "
" 12 "	15th Mar. 1893.

Copies of the rules for each Province (except Assam, where they have not yet been finally issued) were forwarded to the India Office with the despatches from the Government of India noted in the margin.

ORDER—dated 28th June 1894, No. 1621, Judicial.

Communicated to the Public Works Department, all District Magistrates, the Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police, Madras, and the Surgeon-General.

(True Extract.)

A. B. Shelley
Capo R.R.
 Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
 „ all District Magistrates.
 „ the Inspector-General of Police.
 „ the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
 „ the Surgeon-General (through the Public Department).

Gobt. of {1894} Madras.
JUDICIAL.

No. 1838 W. d/24 July 1894
Communicated
to officers concerned
in continuation of
Sp. No 1998 W. d/24
August 1893.

Issued 105.c
Recd. 11.7.94 Encl.

G.O., 28th June 1894, No. 1621.

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verified
copy
Superficial
I, II & V cities.
C. S. for the year.

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28TH JUNE 1894, No. 1621, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Despatch from the Right Honorable Mr. H. H. FOWLER, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 19th April 1894, Revenue No. 46.

I have considered in Council your Excellency's letter, No. 7, dated the 28th February 1894, forwarding and briefly reviewing the reports of Factory Inspectors under the amended Factory Act.

2. These reports warrant the belief that the new Factory law is generally obeyed; that it has not dislocated or disturbed any important industry; and that the provisions regarding hours of labour for women and children, weekly holiday, and midday rest are observed. The condition of the operatives, their wages, and their health appear to be good.

3. I approve your intention to give instructions for securing in all cases a sufficient number of inspections by Medical Officers as well as by Factory Inspectors, and for the more complete investigation of accidents.

4. Next year's report should state why it has been found necessary to exempt so many factories in Bengal from the Sunday or weekly holiday regulations. Apparently, 51 such exemptions were granted in Bengal, as compared with nine in the rest of India. I hope it may be found possible to forward the Factory reports for 1893 within a shorter interval than 14 months from the close of the year.

No. 660.

Copy, with copy of the despatch to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information and guidance, in continuation of letter, No. 392, dated 31st March 1894.

SIMLA,
18th June 1894.

(Signed) H. LUSON,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ENCLOSURE.

DESPATCH from the Government of India, Home Department (Judicial), to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Calcutta, the 28th February 1894, No. 7.

In continuation of the despatch from the Government of India, No. 14 (Judicial), dated the 22nd March 1893, we have the honour to forward the reports on the working of the Indian Factories Act, XV of 1881 as amended by Act XI of 1891, in the Provinces noted in the margin during the year 1892.

Madras.	Punjab.
Bombay.	Central Provinces.
Bengal.	Burma.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	

2. We have carefully considered these reports; but the conditions under which industries are carried on and operatives are employed in different factories in the several Provinces are so widely different, that we have not thought it advisable at present to tabulate or compare the results.

It will, however, be observed that there are only 653 factories (including seasonal factories) in all the Provinces (omitting Assam); they employ on an average nearly 317,000 hands daily, of whom nearly 43,600, or 13·7 per cent., are women, and less than 19,000, or 6 per cent., are children under 14.

No report has been received from Assam for 1892. In that Province there are very few factories, other than tea-gardens, which are regulated by a special law (Act I of 1882) and are expressly exempted by the Factories Act from its operation. Reports from this Province will, however, be submitted in future years.

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The reports show that the sanitary condition of, and sanitary arrangements on, factories are as a rule, satisfactory, and that the provisions of the Act and rules have been generally complied with.

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Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
„ all District Magistrates.
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3. I approve your intention to give instructions for securing in all cases a sufficient number of inspections by Medical Officers as well as by Factory Inspectors, and for the more complete investigation of accidents.

4. Next year's report should state why it has been found necessary to exempt so many factories in Bengal from the Sunday or weekly holiday regulations. Apparently, 51 such exemptions were granted in Bengal, as compared with nine in the rest of India. I hope it may be found possible to forward the Factory reports for 1893 within a shorter interval than 14 months from the close of the year.

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4. Next year's report should state why it has been found necessary to exempt so many factories in Bengal from the Sunday or weekly holiday regulations. Apparently, 51 such exemptions were granted in Bengal, as compared with nine in the rest of India. I hope it may be found possible to forward the Factory reports for 1893 within a shorter interval than 14 months from the close of the year.

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