

To

G. D. Wybroe Esquire
Superintending Engineer
1st Circle

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C. J. Usher Esquire
Assistant Engineer
Godavari Eastern Division

M
31-5-93

H. A. Moss Esquire
Assistant Engineer
Head Works sub D.

Mr. R. Ry

D. Ramannaiah Esquire
Assistant Superintending

Most Honored Sir,

I most respectfully
and humbly beg your honor to trans-
mit the enclosed memorial to the
Government for its favorable consi-
deration with your kind recommendation



Govt. Secy
28th May 1893

I beg to remain
Most Honored Sir
Your Most obedient servant
M. S. Chakraborty
Assistant Secy

Hm.
14.6.93

To

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department

Humble memorial of Thalari Ramu
aunt lascar of the Godavari Eastern
Division on whom notice has been served
under G.O. No 840 dated 28-3-93,
stating that his services will be dis-
pensed with at the expiration of three
months from the date of notice.

Most Honored Sir,

With due deference and
profound submission, the memorialist prays
the Government that the following few lines
may be taken into its kind consideration.

The first thing that the memorialist would
bring to the notice of the Government is, that
no new rule has ever been enforced in the
British Govt with retrospective effect, except
that the rule has been brought into operation
from the date of its origin. In the case
of Government's humble memorialist his
services being under twenty years are
ordered to be dispensed with as per G.O.
No. 840 dated 28-3-93. Evidently the
rule originated in the aforesaid G.O. of
March 1893 has affected the services of

Government's poor servants of 20 years standing in the department. The object of the Govt in doing so, is perhaps to preserve economy without undergoing expenses for affording pension to those that survived after completing 30 years service overcoming innumerable hardships & accidents to lives (irrespective of natural and domestic life struggles) in the due performance of the duties of ancient lascars who are required:

- (a) Sometimes to swim with express letters one or two branches of the river Godavari at night during flood time in cases of emergency.
- (b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small man or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Pukh-dari boats or dhonies is altogether stopped for fear of getting them drowned.
- (c) To put ancient planks for preserving water for second crop cultivation, over the ancient crest when 1' to 2' of water is passing over it and when it is too slippery to pass owing to the growth of moss, over it (one slide or slip of foot makes a man fall down and smash his head into pieces by carrying him along the whirling current below the ancient: none but experienced men who have been accustomed can put ancient planks to prevent water being wasted).
- (d) To work with the gearings of under sluices in some parts of the year both day and night

according to the state of water in the river (sometimes in working the gearings during the high freshes putting ^{some} ancient planks over the parapet walls of the undersluices there is every chance of men being slipped into the water above undersluices by accident not knowing the position of the ancient planks placed beneath their feet owing to there being 3 or 4' of water over the parapet walls, none but experienced lascars can either raise or lower shutters of the undersluices at Dowlaisuram and Balharbhan & Vijayapuram).

- (e) To carry large apron stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult works during the whole scorching day of the working (summer) season notwithstanding watching at night materials (lime & durki) tools, the river embankments and banks (infested with cobras) during the times of flood and in the rainy season. What daily laborers or temporary men can be entrusted with the above works of responsibility and what retainer can officers and subordinates keep on them and what will be the punishment in case of neglect of duty on their (daily laborers) part?
- The memorialist would bring to the special notice of the Govt, the differences between servants who are bound by service & reckonable towards pension and others who have no such binding.

(F) To accompany the Delta Supt. attached to the H² Works sub. D² for river survey work in surveying banks and sand-shoals four miles below and four miles above the four branches of the anicut bearing scientific instruments in the scorching sun over them and burning sands beneath their feet (if a levelling box is slipped down the head of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued by sun stroke or by accident thus therewith end the lascars services and for fear of this he is more careful towards the instrument than to his own life, but please consider the case of a daily laborer or a temporary servant chargeable to work; nothing can be done but confiscating the wages of the laborer viz. as much as three or four of whatever he gets for that day)

(G) To row boats measuring distances in the river & taking soundings after field work of river chart survey is over. (None but experienced lascars can be employed in measuring distances over water)

2 Besides the duties enumerated from (a) to (g) under para 1, which from the ordinary daily work of anicut lascars the following extraordinary works have been undertaken by them.

(a) During the working season of May 1889 a big hole was found beneath the Maddur anicut. officers and subordinates attempted to penetrate into it and inspect the bottom of it but did not succeed not because the hole was not sufficiently large to hold men, but because it was too dark and heat was very immense, there was not good air to breathe in. light was created by reflection of large glasses into the hole; no daily laborer ventured to enter into the hole. At this time, the anicut lascars were ordered to enter into the hole and to fill it up from its very bottom. They did the work very satisfactorily and won the favor of the Superintending, the Executive & the Assistant Engineers of the time to whom the Govt. may make reference and obtain the truth of the matter as they form the eyewitnesses of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlanka Head-Sluices in 1879-80, Bowlaichuram H² Lock in 1886-87, Bobberlanka H² Lock in 1889-90 and Vijayachuram H² Lock in 1891-92 daily laborers did not offer themselves to dive into the wells sunk and for pile driving work.

work. Though it was a very difficult task especially diving into wells and sinking them yet the ancient lasears were considered as so many giants that can undertake the work & accordingly it was got done by them. W. B. Dewinton Esq. will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient ancient lasears when the Babberlanka ⁴/_{th} sluices were washed away in the year 1878. A reference to J. S. Somers Esq. the present Executive Engr in the Rushkulia ⁴/_{th} will clear the doubts of Govt. if any, in the case of work done by them to Dowlaiswaram ⁴/_{th} Lock.

(3) Both the above facts stated in (a) and (b) under para 2, will, they believe, convince the Govt. in so far that they have undertaken the above works even at the risk of their lives. Such has been the hard labor with which they have been entrusted and such is the ultimate benefit they derived of it viz. the reduction of their posts into posts chargeable to work which carry no pensions with them.

(4) Fully anticipating that they will enjoy the golden rule of the British Govt. and get pensions in their old age some of the lasears who have had landed property have disposed it off, lest they may be transferred to some other places far off their natural land. ^{they}

they also disposed of their cattle which most of them had been unable to look after them while attending to the onerous duties of their public service both day and night. If they intend to return to their former profession, viz. cultivating their land they are now destitute of both land and cattle. When they are reduced to such a poor state of life as this they have been reduced to work establishments to their great misfortune.

5 Had this reduction been effected when the railway work was commenced in the Godavari District the memorialist would have at least earned viz. from 4 to 6 annas a day (for only day time & not for night work) seeing that local rates of wages of daily laborers in force are greater than what he gets viz. Rs. — a day just Rs. for a month both for day and night work. Finding that the ancient lasears in the Krishna district draw Rs. 6, 7 & 8 per mensem, the Govt. poor memorialist contemplated of sending a memorial to the Govt. for raising his salary to the corresponding grade of local rates but believing that the scale of rates established once for all will not be revised without his undergoing much trouble he did not submit the memorial. He now very deeply regrets for the necessity of his.

having had to present this memorial to keep him even in the same state he has been in for the last 20 years. He most submissively requests the Govt to contrast the differences between laborers whose wages are changed to works by day and servants who are bound (in fact fettered) by service binding.

(6) The Govt may then question why the several advantages opened to daily laborers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent ancient lancears as they have now been reduced to work establishment for this they have to reply that their loyal adherence to the department for the last 20 years selling up their land cattle receiving small salaries viz Rs 5 & 6 per mensem for both day and night work would not keep them justified receiving three months salaries in spite of their hard labors in connection with river business even at the risk of their lives as enumerated in the foregoing paras.

(7) Even to think of the economy of Govt alluded to in the sentence above as under para 1 in which Govt servants have some interest they believe it is no economy when Govt is under to pay temporary men both for day & night work for it amounts to more than the principal

of the amount to be afforded for pensions as well as interest on it.

(8) All the revenue to government & service if any is due to its bestowing pension to its loyal servants in their dotage and without it it is all the same with whomsoever the appointment rests.

(9) In conclusion the Government's humble and poor servant living on such a small pay of Rs 6 per mensem who spent almost the prime of his life in the discharge of public duties begs to know if he should be betrayed unprotected by the Government in his old age.

Don Christuram } Mark of Thakur Ramudu
28-5-93 } Ancient lancear