

G. D. Thibrow Esquire

Superintending Engineer 1st Circle

(Thro) C. J. Usher Esquire

Executive Engineer, Godavari Eastern Division

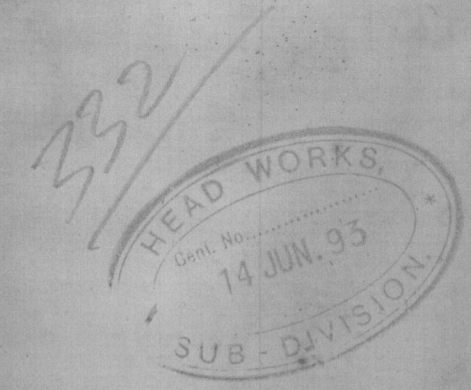
H. A. Moss Esquire

Assistant Engineer

Headwork Sub Division

M. R. Ramaswami Reddy Esq

Ancient Superintendent.



MM
31-5-93
Most Honored Sir

I most respectfully and humbly beg your honor
to transmit the enclosed memorial to the Government for its
favourable consideration, with your kind recommendation.

I beg to remain

Most Honored Sir

Your most obedient servant.

+ Mark of Thiruvangam. Nariah
Ancient Lascar.

Dooralai Shivanam.

28-5-1893

H.W.
14.6.93

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department.

Humble memorial of Neerangam. Nariah ancient
lascar of the Godavery Eastern Division on whom notice has
been served under G.O. No 840 dated 28-3-93, stating that
^{his} ~~these~~ services will be dispensed with at the expiration of three
months from the date of notice.

Most Honoured Sir.

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

- 1 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 Government 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 Government in doing so, is perhaps
to preserve economy without undergoing expenses for
affording pensions 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:-
- (2) Sometimes to swim with express letters one or two branches of the river Coovary at night during flood time in cases of emergency.
 - (b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small nava or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadari boats or dhonis 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 slid 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 part 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 under sluices there is every chance of men being slipped into the water above under sluices 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

- shutters of the under sluices at Dowlaiswaram, Bobber-lauka & Vijayawaram)
- (e) To carry large-spon stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult work during the whole scorching day of the working (summer) season notwithstanding watching at night materials (lime & surki) tools, the river embankment and laukas (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 reliance can officers and subordinates keep on them and what will be the punishment in case of neglect of duty on their (daily laborer's) part? The Memorialist would bring to the special notice of the Government, the differences between servants who are bound by service regulations towards pensions and others who have no such binding.
 - (f) To accompany the Delta Superintendent attached to the head works sub-division for river survey work in surveying laukas and sand-shoals four miles below and four miles above the four branches of the ancient bearing scientific instruments in the scorching sun over them and burning sand beneath their feet (if a leveling box is slipped down the head of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued by sun-stroke or, by accident throw themselves and the lascar's services and for fear of this

this he is more careful towards the instrument than to his own life, but please consider the case of a daily laborer viz as soon as whatever he gets for that day.)

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

2. Besides the duties enumerated from (a) to (9) under para 1, which form the ordinary daily work of ancient laborers the following extraordinary works have been undertaken by them.

(a) During the working season of May 1889 a big hole was found beneath the Chaddur Ancient. 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 laborers ventured to enter into the hole. At this time, the ancient laborers 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 Government may make reference and obtain the truth of the matter as they form the witnesses of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlaunka Head-slucies in 1879-80, Erolaishweram Head-Loch in 1886-87, Bobberlaunka Head-Loch in 1889-90, and Vizerwanam Head-Loch in 1891-92, daily laborers did not offer themselves to dive into the wells sunk and for pile driving work. Though it was a very difficult task especially diving into wells and sinking them yet the ancient laborers were considered as so many giants that could undertake the work & accordingly it was not done by them. H. B. Desautors Esquire will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient laborers when the Bobberlaunka Head-slucies were washed away in the year 1879. A reference to J. H. Somers Esquire the present Executive Engineer in the Rushkulia Division will clear the doubts of Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Erolaishweram Head-Loch.

(3) Both the above facts stated in (a) and (b) under para (1), 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 labour 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 pecuniary with them.

(4) Fully anticipating that they will enjoy the golden rule of the British Government and get pension in their old age, some of the lascars who have had land and property have transferred to some other places far off their native land; they also disposed of their cattle which most of them had being 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 at their great misfortune.

(5) Had this reduction been effected when the railway work was commenced in the Godavery District the Memorialist would have at least earned viz as a day (for only day time) & not seeing that local rates of wages in force are greater than what he gets viz Rs 1 a day (i.e.) Rs for a month both for day and night work and finding that the Ancient lascars in the Ristua District draw Rs 6, 7 & 8 per mensem, the Government's poor Memorialist contemplated of sending a Memorial to the Government for raising his salary

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 Government to counteract the differences between laborers whose wages are charged to works by day and servants who are bound (in fact fettered) by service binding.

(6) The Government may then question why the several advantages opened to daily laborers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent Ancient lascars 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 and cattle, receiving small salaries viz Rs 5 & 6 per mensem, for both day and night work, would not keep them justified receiving three months notices 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 Government alluded to in the sentence above (a) under para 1

para 1 in which Government servants have
 some interest they believe it is no economy
 when Government undertakes 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 & without
 it, it is all the same with whom-so-ever
 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.

Solaiswami
 28th May 1893

} Mark of
 Treerangam. Nariah X
 Aicent Lasean.



Sd/-y R. S. S.
 Curry 8-2