To
C. E. Thyagaraja Esquire
Superintending Engineer, 1st circle
(Thro') C. J. Lushington Esq.
Executive Engineer, Godaveri Eastern Dn.
H. A. Moss Esq; Asstt Engineer
Head works Sub Division.

333

M
31-5-93

In M/Rly D. Ramanna Naidu gar
ancient Superintendent.

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 Badrimahanti. Venkamah +
ancient Lascar.

Dowlaisheeram.
20th May 1893

HEAD WORKS
Rl. No.
14 JUN. 93
SUB-DIVISION

H.w.
14.6.93

to

of Madras Public Works Department

Humble memorial of Badrimakanti Venkamma &c.

ancient Inamdar of the Godavari Eastern Division on

whom notice has been served under G.O. No 840 dated

28-3-93, stating that this services will be dispensed

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 Govern-

-ment 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 to humble memorialist

his services being under twenty years are ordered to

be dispensed with as per G.O No 840 dated 28-3-93.

to

March 1893 has affected the services of Government 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 over-coming innumerable hardships & accidents to lives (irrespective of natural and domestic life struggles) in the due performance of the duties of ancut lascars who are required:

(a) Sometimes to swim with express letters over two branches of the river Godavari at night & during flood time in case of emergency.

(b) To convey toppals regularly by means of a small kava or row-boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rakadari boats or dhonies is altogether stopped for fear of getting them drowned.

(c) To put ancut-planks, for preserving water for second crop cultivation, over the ancut crest when 1' to 2' of water is passing over it and when it is too slippery to or slip of foot makes a man fall down and smash his head into pieces by carrying him along the whirling current below the ancut; none but experienced men who have been accustomed can put ancut-planks to prevent water being wasted.)

(d) To work with the gearings of undersluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of waters in the river (sometimes in working the gearings during the high freshes putting some ancut-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 ancut-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 Dowlaiswaram, Bobberlanka & Vizeswaram.)

(e) To carry large-a prons 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 nights materials (lime & sueki) tools,
the river embankments and laukas (infested with the
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 reckonable towards pension
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 the 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 levelling box is slipped
down the head of a lascar for his either getting
them therewith and the lascar's services need 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 3 or 4 or 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 form the ordinary daily work of ancient
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 Madder ancient. Officers and
Subordinates attempted to penetrate into it and

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. At this time, the ancient lascars were ordered to enter into the hole. No daily laborer ventured 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 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 eye-witnesses of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlanka Head-Sluices in 1879-80, Dowlaishweram Head-Lock in 1886-87, Bobberlanka Head-Lock in 1889-90, and Vizzeswaram Head-Lock 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 the wells and sinking them yet the ancient lascars were considered as so many giants that can undertake the work & accordingly it was got done by them. W. B. Devinton Esq will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient lascars when the Bobberlanka Head sluices were washed Exe Esq the present Ex Engineer in the Rushikulia Division will clear the doubts of Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Dowlaishweram Hd. Lock.

(3) Both the above facts stated in (a) and (b) under para 2, will, they believe, convince the Government 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 Government and get pensions in their old age some of the lascars who have had landed property have disposed it of, lest they may be 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 & cattle. When they are reduced to such a poor state of life as this, they have been reduced to work

(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 anas-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 (i.e.) Rs~~ for a month both for day and night work and finding that the ancient-lascars in the Kistna 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 to the corresponding grade of local rates but believing that the scale of rates established once for all will not be revised without this 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 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 have been have not 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 to 6 per mensem, for both day & 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 in which Govt. servants have some interest they believe it is no economy when Government undertake 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 reverence to Government's ~~humble and poor~~ 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

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!

Dodlaiskweem
28th May 1893

mark of
Badrimakanti Venkamah
aniut lascar.

1716

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
No. 37
2 JUL 93
FIRST CIRCLE

Salary Rs 6
Service 16-0

The Secretary to the Government

of Madras Public works Department.

Humble memorial of Basava Pallia
aniut lascar of the Godavery Eastern Division on
whom notice has been served under G.O. No. 840 dated
28-3-93 stating that his services will be dispensed
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 with-
-out undergoing expenses for affording pensions

to

to those that be rewarded after completing 30 years service overcoming innumerable hardships and accidents to limbs (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 nights during flood time in cases of emergency.

(b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small nava or a row-boat even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Pahadari 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 undersluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of water in the rivers (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 Dowlaishweram, Bobberlanka & Vijeeswaram.)

(e) To carry large-aprons stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult works during the whole seeneling day of the working (summer) season, to use the standing watching at nights materials (limestone) tools, the river embankments and banks (infested with cobras) during the times of flood & in the rainy season. What daily labor-ers or temporary men can be entrusted with the above works of responsibility and what reliance can officers and subordinates keep on them & 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 Superintendent attached to the Head works Sub Division for river survey work in surveying banks and sand-shoals four miles below & four miles above the four branches of the ancient bearing scientific instruments in sluices

ber is atte their feet (if a level lineg box is slipped down the head of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued by over-stroke or, by accident, then 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 labourer or a temporary servant chargeable to work. Nothing can be done but confiscating the wages of the laborer viz as 3 or 4 or whatever he gets for that day).

(9) To row boats to measuring distances in the river and taking soundings & after field work of river-chart is over. (survey None but experienced lascars 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 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 Madden-ancient. Officers and subordinates attempted to penetrate into it & inspect the bottom of it but did not succeed, not because the hole was not sufficiently large to hold a few but because it was too dark and heat was very immense, therefore to breathe in light was created by reflection of large glasses into the hole; no daily laborer ventures to enter into the hole. At this time the ancient lascars were ordered to enter into the hole and to fill it up from its very bottom. They did the work very satisfactorily and now 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 eyewitness of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlanka Head-sluices, in 1879-80, Bowlaisheeram Head-Lock, in 86-87, Bobberlanka Head-Lock 89-90, Vizeswaram Head-Lock 91-92, daily labourers 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 at the ancient lascars were considered as so many giants that can undertake the work and accordingly it was got done by them W. B. Dewinton Esq will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient lascars when the Bobberlanka Head-sluices

sluices were washed away in the year 1878.
A reference to F. F. Somers Eve Esq the present
Executive Engineer in the Rushkulica Division
will clear the doubts of Government, if any, in the
case of work done by them to Dowlaiswaram Anicut.

(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 work 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 pension with them.

(4) Fully anticipating that they will enjoy the
Good rule of the British Govt and get pensions
in their old age some of the Lascars who have
had landed property, have disposed it of,
lest they may be transferred to some other places
far off their native land; 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 & night. If they intend
to return to their former profession viz,
cultivating their land, they are now destitute
of both land & cattle. When they are
reduced to such a poor state of his life
as this they have been reduced to work —
establishment to their great misfortune.

(5) Had this reduction been effected where the rail-
-way 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 labourers in force are greater
than what he gets for a month both for day
and night work and finding that the ancient
Lascars in Kristna District draw Rs 7 & 8 per
mensem, the Government's 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 memo-
-rial 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 labourers whose wages are charge
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 labourers 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 lands & cattle receiving small salaries viz Rs 5-46 per mensem for both day & 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 Govt. alluded to in the sentence above (a) under para 1, in which Governments servants have some interest, they believe it is no economy when Govt. undertake to pay temporary men both for day & night work for it amounts to more than the principal of the amount to be offered for pensions as well as interest on it.

(8) All the reverence 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 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.

Dowlaishweram
28/5/93

Mark of
Basava. Pallia +
Ancient Lascar

To

C. D. Wybrow Esquire
Superintending Engineer
1st circle.

(Thro) C. J. Ussher Esquire
Executive Engineer
Godavery Eastern Division

H. A. Moss Esquire
assistant Engineer
Headworks Sub Division

Mr. D. Ramanna Naidu Gar
avient Superintendent.

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 recommendations.

I beg to remain,
Most Honored Sir
Your Most Obdt. Servant
Mark of Basava. Pulliah T.
avient Tasear

Dowlaishweram
28th May 1893

HEAD WORKS
Genl. No.
14 JUN. 93
SUB-DIVISION

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE
Genl. No. 1224 (2)
16 JUN. 93
EASTERN DIVISION, GODAVARI.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
No. 2170
3 - JUL. 93
FIRST CIRCLE.

Forwarded.

If the petitions cannot be granted I request that add^l pay may be sanctioned for these men. Otherwise it will be impossible to keep them or get others to do the work. When the order came transferring them to ~~t~~emporary estab^t Came some of them struck and absented themselves. We found it impossible to dismiss them as ~~suff~~ th^r good men were not to be had in their places for the pay. Unless some concession is granted to the Lascars it is certain that all will go. Others cannot be had for their pay and even when we take on new men on higher pay it will be long before they gain the experience & become as useful as the present establishment

H Lows
14.6.93