

To

G. D. Nybrav Esquire
Superintending Engineer
First circle.

Thro

L. J. Vasher Esquire
Executive Engineer
Godavari Eastern Division

MM A. A. Moss Esquire
Assistant Engineer
Head Works sub Division
31-5-93

M. R. D. Ramanna Chaidugur

Amint Superintendent

Most Honored Sir,

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

I beg to remain

Most Honored Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Dowlaiswaram

28th May 1893



14-6-93

M. R. D. Ramanna Chaidugur
Amint Superintendent

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department.

Humble memorial of Palupalli Venkappan
quaint hascar 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 dispensed with at the expiration of three
months from the date of notice.

Most Honoured Sir,

With due deference and pro-
-found 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 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 dis-
-pensed 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 for servants of 20 years service 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 services 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 nights during flood time in cases of emergency.
- (b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small maned or row boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadari 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 man who have been accustomed can put ancient planks to prevent water being wasted

- (d) To work with the gearings of timber sluices in some parts of the year both day and night according to the state of water in the river (some times 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 undersluice 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 Dowlaisheram Bolkerlank & Vijaisheram
- (e) To Carry large-apron stones from one place to another and to do such other difficult works during the whole seorching day of the working (summer) season notwithstanding watching at nights materials (lime & surki) tools, the river embankments and banks (infested with Cobras) during the times of flood and in the rainy season. Not daily laborers or temporary men can be entrusted with the above works of responsibility and what reliance can officers and Subordinals put on them and what will be punishment

to case of neglect of duty on their (daily-
-rivers) 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 Superintendents
attached to the Head Works rule by former
survey work in surveying tanks 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 levelling box is slipped down the head
of a lascar for his either getting too much
fatigued by sun-stroke or, by accident then
therewith end the lascar's 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 tempo-
-rary servant chargeable to work, nothing
can be done but confiscating the wages
of a 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

river - chart survey is over. (None but exper-
-ed lascars can be employed, in measuring distan-
-ces 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
extra ordinary works have been undertaken
by them.

(a) During the working season of May 1989
a big hole was found beneath the allas
-dur 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 laborer un-
-tured to enter into the hole. At this time,
the ancient lascars were ordered to enter
into the hole and fill it up from its
very bottom. They did the work very
satisfactorily and won the favor of the
Superintending the Executives & the
Assistant Engineers of the time to whom

the Government may make reference
and obtain the truth of the matter as they
form the eyewitnesses of the facts.

- (1) During the time of the construction of
Babherlankad Head-slucies in 1879-80,
Dowlaisheram Head Lock in 1886-87, Babher-
lankad Head Lock in 1889-90, and Dowlais-
heram 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 wells and sinking them yet, the
Ancient Lascars were considered as many
giants that can undertake the work &
accordingly it was got done by ancient
Lascars. Then W. B. Deviston Esq. will bear
testimony to the hazardous work played by
Ancient Lascars when the Babherlankad
slucies were washed away in the year 1878.
A reference to J. F. Somers Esq. the pre-
sent Esq. Esq. in the Ruskuliah Du will
clear the doubts of Government if any, in
the case of work done by them to Dowlai-
shheram Head-Lock.

- (3) Both the above facts stated in (1) and (2)
under para 2, will, they believe, convince
the Government in so far that they have
undertaken the above works en masse

at the risk of their lives. Such has been
the hard labor with which they have
been entrusted and such is the pelli-
mate benefit they derived of it viz the
reduction of their posts into posts charge-
able 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 Lascars who have had
landed property have disposed of it,
but 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 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

of the amount to be approved for pension
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
soever the appointment rests.

(9) In conclusion the Government's hum-
-ble 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.

Dowlaisheeramm
28-5-1893
Mark of Polupelli Venkappa
Agent & Secy



Salary - Rs 6

Service 1871