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Superintending Engineer, 1<sup>st</sup> Circle.

(The) C. J. Usher Esquire

Executive Engineer

Madras Eastern Division

A. A. Moss Esq

Asst Engineer, Head Works Sub Division.

M. R. Ramanna Naidugan

Assistant Superintendent.

MS  
28-5-93

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

Dorlaishwaram.

Most Honored Sir

28-5-1893

Your Most Obedt. Servant.

X Mark of Pidugw. Pulliah  
Assistant Engineer.



HM  
14.6.93

The High Government  
Madras Public Works Department.

Humble Memorial of Piduga Pulliah  
ancient lascar of the Godavari Eastern Division on whom  
Notice has been served under G.O. No. 840 dated 28-3-93  
stating that <sup>his</sup> services will be dispensed with at the  
expiration of three months from the date of notice.  
Most Honored Sir,

With due difference and profound  
submission, the Memorialist prays the Government that  
the following few lines may be taken into its <sup>kind</sup> 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:—

(a) The express letters one or two boats of the river Godavari at nights during flood time in cases of emergency.

(b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small rava 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 plaques, 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 plaques to prevent water being wasted.)

(d) To work with the gearings of undersluices in some parts of the gear 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 plaques 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 positions of the ancient plaques placed beneath their feet owing to their being 3' or 4' of water over the parapet walls; none but experienced lascars can either raise or lower shutters of the undersluices at Dowlashivanam, Bobberlaika & Vizianam.)

(e) To carry large-apron stones from one place to another & to do such other difficult works during the whole seorching day of the working (summer) season

notwithstanding watching at night materials (lime & surki) tools, the river embankment and landas (infested with ebras) 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 relieve 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 Government, the differences between servants who are bound by service, reasonable towards prison 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 & sand shoals four miles below and four miles above the four branches of the ancient bearing scientific instruments in the seorching 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 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 & 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 paras

which form the ordinary daily work of ancient lasears the following extraordinary works have been undertaken by them.

- (a) During the working season of May 1889 a big hole was found beneath the elbadder 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; 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 lasears 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 eyewitnesses of the fact.
- (b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlaika Head-Sluices in 1879-80, Daolaishwaram Head-Loch in 1886-87, Bobberlaika Head-Loch in 1889-90, and Vizeswaram 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 lasears 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 lasears when the Bobberlaika Head-Sluices were washed away in the year 1879. A reference to J. F. Somers Esq. of the present

Executive Engineers in the Pudukkula Division will clear the doubts of Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Daolaishwaram Head-Loch.

- (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 lasears who have had landed property have disposed it of, lest they may be transferred to some other places far off their <sup>native</sup> 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 & 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 establishment to their great misfortune.
- (5) Had this reduction been effected when the railway work was commenced in the Godevaru 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. 1 a day (i.e. Rs. 30 for a month both for

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 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 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 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 setting up  
their land and estate receiving small salaries viz Rs 4  
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 as under para 1, in which

Government's 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 revenue to ports service if any is due to its  
bestowing pension to its loyal servants in their old age  
& 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!

Govindaswaram  
28<sup>th</sup> May 1893

X Mark of Pidugu Pulliah  
Ancient lascar