

To

G. D. Nybrow Esquire  
Superintending Engineer  
First Circle

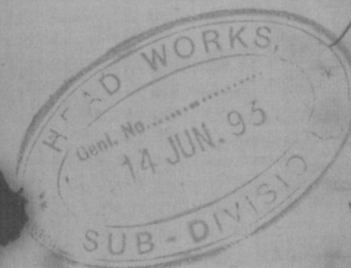
337  
(Thro) C. J. Usher Esquire  
Executive Engineer  
Godavary Eastern Division

A. A. Moss Esquire  
Assistant Engineer  
Head Works Sub Division

mm  
31-5-93 MRRy. D. Ramanna Naidega  
Ancient Superintendent

Most Honoured Sir.

I most respectfully and hum-  
bly beg your Honor to transmit the enclosed  
memorial to the Government for its  
favorable consideration with your kind  
recomm<sup>m</sup>endation



I beg to remain

Most Honoured Sir

Your most Obedient Servant  
X Mark of Dasari Venkataswamy  
Ancient Lascar.

Dowlaiswaram  
28 May 1893

To

The Secretary to the Government  
of Madras Public Works Department

Humble memorial of Dasary Venkata-  
-samy ancient hasear of the Godavary  
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.

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 origi-  
-nated 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 expen-  
-ses for affording pensions to those that  
survived after completing 30 years service  
Overcoming innumerable hardships & accident

to lines (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 nava or row-boat, even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadari boats or Lhories 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 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 of the under sluices at Dowlaiswaram

Bobberlanka & Digheshwaram.)

(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 & surki) tools, the river embankments and lankas (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 subordinate 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 peckonable towards pension and others who have no such binding.

(f) To accompany the District Superintendent attached to the Head works sub Division for river survey work in surveying lankas 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 bow 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 river

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 alladur 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 ventured 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, upon the favor of the Superintendent, 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 eye witnesses of the fact.

(b) During the time of the construction of Bobberlanka Head - sluice in 1879-80, Dowlaishwaram Head - Lock in 1886-87, Bobberlanka Head - Lock in 1889-90, and Vissaiswaram 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

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. Derwenton Esquire will bear testimony to the hazardous work played by ancient lascars when the Bobberlanka Head - sluice was washed away in the year 1878. A reference to J. St.ammers 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 Dowlaishwaram Head - 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 carries 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 of it, 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 the land they are now

destitute

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 ~~1~~ a day (i.e.) Rs for a month both for day and night work and finding that the ancient lascars in the Krishna 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 as 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 hindering.

(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 establishments, for this they have to reply that their loyal adherence to the department for the last 20 years selling up their land and

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 as alluded to in the sentence above (a) 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 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 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 or unprotected by the Government in his old age.

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

X Mark of  
Dasari Venkataswamy  
Ancient lascar.