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Lt. D. Hybrow Esquire
Superintending Engineer, 1st circle
(And) C. J. Eshen Esq.

Executive Engineer
Godavery Eastern Division
H. A. Nodd Esq.

Asst. Engineer
Head Works Sub Division

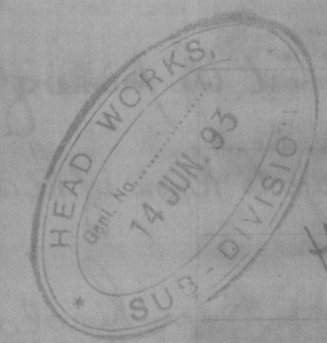
MM 93 MAY 31-5
D. Ramesh Rao is the
ancient Superintendent.

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 Lakai, Verraw +
Ancient Lascar

Dowlishoeram. }
20th May 1893. }



MM
14.6.93

The Secretary to the Government
of Madras Public Works Department.

Humble memorial of Sakai Veerabahu.

anicut-lascar of the Godavari Eastern Division on whom notice
has been served under G.O. No. 84 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 profound
submission, the memorialist prays the Government that
the following few lines may be taken into its kind con-
sideration.

- 1 The first thing that the memorialist would bring to the
notice of the Government is, that no rule has ever
been enforced in the British Government with retrospective
effect, that no rule has ever been enforced except that
the rule has been brought into operation from the date of its
origins. 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 under-
going expenses for affording pensions to those that survive
after completing 30 years service overcoming innumerable

hands hips & accident 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 night during flood time in cases of emergency.
- (b) To convey tappals regularly by means of a small rava or a row-boat; even when the river is in its highest flood and all traffic by Rahadani 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 to 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 face either rain or lower shutters of the under sluices at Doolaisheram, Bobber-lanka & Vizianagaram.)

- (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 not without standing watching at night materials (lime & surki) tools, the river embankment and lankas (infested with cobras) during the times of flood and in the rainy season. What daily labourers or temporary men can be entrusted with the above works of responsibility and what relievers and officers and subordinates keep on them and what will be the punishment in case of neglect of duty on their (daily labourers) part? The memorialist would bring to the special notice of the Government, the differences between servants who are bound by service regulations 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 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 box is slipped down the head of a lascar for his either getting too much fatigued by sun-stroke or, by accident throw it with and 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 & 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 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 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 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 Bobberlanka Head-Sluices in 1879-80, Dowlaisheram Head-Rock in 1886-87, Bobberlanka Head-Rock in 1889-90, and Vizianagaram Head-Rock 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 ^{up} them 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 away in the year 1879. A reference to J.F. Somers Esq. Engineer the present Executive Engineer in the Rushkulia Division will clear the doubts of the Government if any, in the case of work done by them to Dowlaisheram Head-Rock.

(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 lost their 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 & 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 Godavari District, the memorialist would have at least earned viz from 4 to 6 annas a day (for only daytime & not for night work) seeing that local rates of wages of daily labourers in force are greater than what he gets viz Rs 1 a day (Rs 30 for a month both for day and night work and finding that the ancient lasears in the Kistna District draw Rs 6, 748 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.

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He now very deeply regrets for the necessity of his having had to present this memorial to his superiors even in the same state he has been in, for the last 20 years. He most submissively requests the Government to contest the differences between labourers 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 labourers may not now be enjoyed by the permanent ancient lasears 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 546 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 Govt alluded to in the sentence above (2) under para 1 in which Govt'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 Govt's service if any is due to its bestowing pension to its loyal servants.

the case of a lady la¹ or a
in their dotage & without it, it is all the same suit
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 month
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. —

S. Molai Shewaram } Master Lakai. Veerawar +
28th May 1893 } District Lascar.



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