

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1404 W

DATED 26. May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Weavers, Pro: Revenue Dept recording Roads
Pro: agreeing with the Sanitary Commission
in considering that a weekly holiday is necessary
in the case of — and that the hours of labour
of carpet weavers should not exceed
eight a day, Comd^r to S.E.S I & III Aches
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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Current Number: 4903

Recd. 18. 5- } 1897.
Regd. 18. 5- }

Spare copies 16.

G.O., No. 287, 1st May 1897.

MAY.

B. B. No: 1404 W
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Communicated to
the Supp. Secy I & II
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Weavers.

Recording Board's Proceedings agreeing with the Sanitary Commissioner in considering that a weekly holiday is necessary in the case of — and that the hours of labour of carpet-weavers should not exceed eight a day.

O. L. S. 125-

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th April 1897, No. 294:—

Read—the following letter from Surgn.-Lieut.-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Fort St. George, 1st April 1897, No. 807-S.:—

With reference to paragraph 4 of the B.P., dated 5th March 1897, No. 192, I have the honour to advise that the Board should, before finally determining to require carpet-weavers to labour more than eight hours daily, take into consideration the fact that their work entails considerable muscular exertion; consequently, a working day of eight hours represents a sufficient demand. An inspection of the different classes of weavers in a town where both cloth and carpet weaving are carried on will convince the Board that the latter is always conducted by men of superior physique. This is due to the fact that one of the motions necessary for weaving a carpet consists of forcing the thick thread into position by the weaver dragging a board towards him with much force. It is necessary that this board should be held parallel to the work, and the force be distributed evenly—a requirement that needs a firm grasp and vigorous pull. In short, the getting home of the *thin* thread for ordinary cotton cloth-weaving by the same motion is a very different matter to that necessary for thick thread in making carpets.

2. The determination not to allow a holiday for these men also seems worthy of reconsideration. That a human being may remain in a state of health, it is essential that some form of rest should be given to mind and body at more or less regular intervals. Whether a man be a Christian, Muhammadan, Jew, Buddhist or Hindu, it will be found that arrangements exist whereby some form of relaxation for the body and mind shall be obtained—usually at intervals of about seven days. The Hindu makes up for the recurring seventh day holiday of other races by indulging in certain petty festivals.

3. If this change of employment or day of rest be neglected by either the physical or mental toiler, Nature takes revenge sooner or later by inducing a state of exhaustion that perforce brings about the required rest. I am aware that there are men in this country to whom Sunday and Monday bring the same work; but I am also convinced that if the result of such men's work were entered into, it will be found that during some day in the week their working powers flag, and the total average outturn becomes no better than the man who has a complete rest once a week.

4. The Board by denying the weaver a rest day will cause him to be subjected to a strain greater than he has been accustomed to in ordinary times and when obtaining a better diet; for it must be remembered that if the wage be correctly calculated, the weaver can obtain no food on the day he ceases to work, should he elect to have a rest notwithstanding absence of provision for this contingency. The Board in denying a rest day contravenes a physiological law that the habits of all nations point to as requisite.

Resolution—dated 8th April 1897, No. 294.

Communicated to the Special Deputy Collector in charge of weavers' relief operations, in continuation of B.P. No. 281 of 1897. The Board is inclined to agree with the Sanitary Commissioner that a weekly holiday is needed, not only for purposes of recuperation, but also to compensate workers for the delays that occur in appraising, giving out thread and making payments. It also considers that in the case of carpet-weavers, whose labour is of a heavier nature than that of cloth-weavers, the hours of labour should not exceed eight a day.

(True Copy and Extract).

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Special Deputy Collector in charge of weavers' relief operations.

Collectors of affected districts.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" " Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 287, Revenue, dated 1st May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar.