

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1440 W

DATED 11 June 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

S. L. Jail, Madras. Pro: J. L. C. Dept
Forwarding letter from the Inspector of Prisons
bringing to the notice of the great delay
on the part of the Govt. in carrying out certain
repairs to the ———, communicated to the
Supt. Insp. VI circle for full yearly report.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Judicial (1898) Department.

HM

From The L. G. of Prisons

Order

Endorsement No. 1250 of 3^d June 1898.

No. 2332

Forwarded to the Public Works
with ref^y to this note by H. E. McIver
Sept 16/98
Dated
Receiv

Dated 14th May 1898

Received 2/6 ^K do

Registered 17 - do -

Enclosures / -

Spare copies.

18/5/58

SUBJECT.

Bringing to the notice of Govt.
the delay on the part of the
P. W. D. in Carrying out Astruc
repairs to the Inadura St. Jail

No. 14410 W 87 11.6.98.

Communicated
to the Sup't. Engineer VI Circle
for a full and early report

S. V. C. C.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT NO 2154

[H. O. Form No. (4)—251—July 1896.]

No. 2332.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, MADRAS,
Dated Ootacamund, the 14th May 1898.

From

A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., J.C.S.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,

MADRAS,

To

THE HONOURABLE MR. A.T. ARUNDEL I.C.S.,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

SIR,

On inspecting the Madura District Jail in August 1896, I found that the doors of the sleeping-barracks for Under-trial prisoners were so insecure that they could be easily opened from within. One door I opened myself, without difficulty, from within, after it had been locked. As the Madura District Jail receives a large number of Prisoners, mainly Maravars, of a daring disposition and charged with dacoity and other grave crimes, the state of these doors appeared to be ^{an} urgent matter. On the date of inspection (22nd August 1896) the Executive Engineer was asked what the cost of iron-barred doors would be and on ^{it} appearing from his reply that it would be less than Rs 500 and that reference to Government was therefore unnecessary, the Superintending Engineer was requested on the 15th September 1896, to cause an estimate for providing iron-barred doors, with the Bengal locking arrangement, to be prepared, and he was asked also to instruct the Executive Engineer to treat the matter as an urgent one, on the ground that the wards were not safe against escape.

2. I proceeded on privilege leave and nothing was done till December 1896, when the Executive Engineer wrote to ask what pattern the doors were to be and my locum tenens replied on 21st

December

December 1896 that they should be made with horizontal bars. Shortly after I returned from leave, I sent the Superintending Engineer a reminder and on the 26th January 1897, an estimate was sent me. It thus took 4 months to obtain an estimate amounting to Rs 300 for this small, but important work. The estimate was returned countersigned on 2nd February 1897, after being examined at Madura, with a request that the doors might not be made with horizontal, but with vertical bars.

3. The matter being thus in the hands of the Public Works Department, no further action on the part of this office seemed necessary and it was not until the Madura District Jail was again visited in February 1898 that it was found that the estimate which had been returned countersigned in February 1897, had not yet been carried out. On the 28th February 1898 I addressed the Superintending Engineer drawing attention to the facts, requesting an explanation of the delay, and again stating that till this work is carried out the wards were unsafe. On the 12th March the Superintending Engineer replied that the work had not been carried out yet "owing to want of funds", and that the Executive Engineer stated that the work would be shortly be put in hand and steps taken to complete it before the end of April. Unsatisfactory as this explanation was, in view of the definite promise to do the work by a stated date, further complaint was refrained from.

4. I have now received a report, dated 3rd May 1898, from the Superintendent of the Jail that upto that date the work of replacing with iron-barred doors the wooden doors of the Under-trial wards had not been commenced, and as it is obviously useless to make further references to the Public Works Officers, I have the honour to invite the attention of Government to the gross delay which has occurred in connection with this small work, the urgency and importance of which was explained fully twenty months ago. If the excuse of "want of funds" put forward by the Superintending Engineer in March 1898 is correct, and it has indeed not been possible to appropriate Rs 300 between February 1897 and March 1898, the 6th Circle must occupy a very exceptional position. If it is not correct, the action of the Superintending Engineer in putting forward such an explanation needs no comment. I beg to add that other work (in the way of repairs, white-washing etc) done by the Public Works Department in the Madura

District

District Jail has been very unsatisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. G. Cardew
Insptr: Genl of Prisons.

M.K.

