

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1553

DATED

21 June '98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jails: Pres: JdC Dept approving of
certain proposals of the J. G. of Prisons
for increasing the cellular accommodation
in the of the Madras Dist., communicated
to the Suptg Engr W Circle:

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BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 4837

From
The first Sept.

Order No. 1553 W D 24.6.28.

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineer IV Circle with
reference to his letter No. 233 W of
22nd April 1898.

No. 847.

Dated 1-6-28

Received

Registered } 7-6-38

Enclosures

Spare copies

May

To The S. C. IV kind

SUBJECT.

Note. Copy of the S. G.'s and S. E.'s letters to be made and kept with this current and the original papers returned to the Judicial Dept.

original
27/1/98

• d.s. 166 R 15/6

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
277D	13-5-50
2389C	5-5-50
5030C	14-12-50

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

No. 4836.

Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons,
Madras.

Dated, Coimbatore, the 14th September 1894.

From
A. G. Gardew Esq., M.A.
Inspector-General of Prisons,
Madras.

To
The Honble Mr. J. F. Price, C.S.I.
Chief Secretary to Govt.,

Sir,

G.O. No. 584/5 of 8-3-94.

G.O. 1112/5, of 9-5-94.

With reference to the orders of Govt., noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit the following proposals for increasing the Cellular accommodation in ^{jails of} this Presidency.

2. The Salem Central Jail, the first-built of all the mofussil Central Jails, was originally constructed to a large extent on the Cellular principle. At that time, however, the prison population was considerably larger than it now is, and there being no other mofussil central prisons in existence, further accommodation was urgently needed. Accordingly, in G.O. No. 1011, Judicial, dated 24th June 1867, the Government sanctioned a proposal to open arches between the cells, thus turning them into wards, and largely increasing the available accommodation. It was proposed in the letter of the then Inspector

Inspector General of Prisons which is printed in the G.O. to throw six Cells into one, but it was afterwards found that to do this would endanger the stability of the upper storey and consequently only 3 cells were thrown into one, while in one block, 15 cells were left unaltered. The proposal now submitted for the consideration of Govt. is to build up afresh the arches in the lower storey, thus restoring their cellular character through-out, and either to restore the cellular character of the Upper Storey in the same way or to convert the Upper Storey into Cubicles in the manner below described.

3. The Tail consists of 6 blocks, each of two stories arranged as segments of a Circle. The lower storey of three of these six blocks originally consisted of 21 Cells a-piece while that of the three other blocks consisted of 27 Cells a-piece. The total number of Cells in these 6 lower stories was thus 144, and if the archways were built up and the Cells restored, that would be the future accommodation. The present accommodation is sufficient for 230. The cost of building up the arches with brick in chunam is estimated at Rs. 350 and the work can be done by convict

labour. This part of the scheme thus provides 144 Cells at a cost of Rs $2\frac{1}{2}$ each, and at a sacrifice of only 86 in total accommodation. It has therefore much to recommend it.

4. The Upper stories of the 6 Blocks likewise consisted originally of 144 Cells, but there are here more difficulties in the way of restoring the original Cellular arrangement. When the present wards were produced by throwing three Cells into one, not only were the dividing walls completely removed, instead of more archways being opened, but the Central Cell door was in each ward (Except two) taken out and the doorway bricked up. A sketch showing the position of doors and windows in one of these wards is submitted. The door ^{thus} removed would have to be replaced if the Upper stories are reconverted into Cells, and the cost involved would therefore be greater. Moreover, the existing Upper stories accommodate 288 prisoners, as against 230 downstairs, the difference being due to the complete removal of the dividing Cell walls having enabled 6 men to be put in each ward as against 5 in the wards of the lower stories. Also no Cells were retained in the Upper stories. The

The loss of accommodation involved in restoring the cells in the Upper stories would thus be 144.

5. Taking the cost of an iron-door with locking arrangements to be Rs 20, and the cost of replacing the bell-walls to be Rs 5 per cell, the cost of reconverting the Upper stories into Cells would amount to Rs 1660, so that for Rs. 2,000, the whole Jail could be made cellular, 288 Cells being provided. In that case the entire loss of accommodation would be 230, and the total accommodation of the Salem Central Jail would be in future sufficient for 498 prisoners instead of for 728, as at present. As a Cellular annexe of 50 Cells was built in 1894, the Jail would, however, still hold within 170 as many prisoners as it has held at any time between 1867 and 1894.

6. Turning now to the question of the amount of accommodation required, the following figures show the daily average population of male convicts for a period of ten years. Female convicts are excluded from consideration, as they are

are not now received at Salem, the yard formerly occupied by them being given up to Under-trial prisoners, while Civil prisoners are accommodated in a yard newly built outside the Jail.

Years	Daily average Population male Convicts.
1887.	380.50.
1888.	399.93.
1889.	467.35.
1890.	527.38.
1891.	513.05.
1892.	623.17.
1893.	553.83.
1894.	601.97.
1895.	572.99.
1896.	563.86.

If the Upper and lower stories of the 6 blocks in the Salem Central Jail were again converted into Cells, the accommodation for Male convicts would stand at 457 and would thus be insufficient for the daily average population ruling during the last ten years. But that daily average population has not been contributed by the Salem District. It has been largely made up of Burmese prisoners and of prisoners transferred from other Districts. The extent to which these elements have gone to make up the average population can be judged from the following figures:—

Years	Daily average number of Burmese	No of male convicts admitted by transfer.
1887	Figures not available	22
1888		33
1889		82
1890		55
1891	175.27	3
1892	135.70	48
1893	110.46	115
1894	95.61	27
1895	88.44	84
1896	75.50	66
1897	68.33	

As prisoners admitted by transfer are usually long-term convicts, the admissions probably indicate a daily average population nearly equal to their own number, and on this calculation they have raised the Salem Jail population by an average of 53.5 per annum during the last ten years. The Burmese prisoners account for an average of 107.4. It is evident that if these two extraneous elements had been removed, an accommodation for 457 male convicts would have been sufficient to meet the needs of the Salem district without transferring any convicts of that District to other Jails. It, therefore appears, to me that the restoration of the Cellular arrangement may be carried out without unduly restricting the accommodation. The number of Burmese prisoners in Madras Jails is diminishing so rapidly that they are now a quantity negligible.

negligible. Of the 424 who remained on the 31st December 1896, not more than 250 will be in Jail at the termination of 1897.

7. If, however, the Government should consider the sacrifice — of accommodation for 230 prisoners to be too great, two alternatives remain. Either the lower stories only might be converted into Cells, leaving the Upper stories as they are or the lower stories might be converted into cells while the Upper stories are converted into cubicles. Either of these plans would restrict the loss of accommodation to 86. If the latter plan were adopted, each existing ward in the Upper stories would be sub-divided by corrugated iron partitions into 6 cubicles measuring 9' x 3'9", and leaving a passage 3' broad to enter by. A plan submitted by the Superintendent of the Jail in 1894 showing how this would be arranged is submitted. It would still be necessary probably to put in the additional iron-doors referred to in paras 4 & 5, and the corrugated iron partitions, with iron-doors to the Cubicles would cost a good deal more than the mere building up of the brick in chumam walls. The cubicles, when provided, would be less satisfactory than the Cells, and this arrangement is clearly inferior to that of restoring the original Cells, and

and is only recommended by its preventing a loss of 144 total accommodation. In view, however, of the fact that 100 Cells are about to be added to the Vellore Central Jail and 120 Cells will before long be added to the Penitentiary, Madras, both being Central Jails within easy communication of Salem, the loss in total accommodation is not very important.

8. If the total accommodation of the Salem Jail is reduced to 498, the propriety of retaining it as a Central Jail will become a subject for consideration. It will, then be practically merely a District Jail, and its reduction to that grade would effect a considerable saving. This is, however, a separate question which can be separately dealt with, if Government accepts the proposals now submitted for restoring to the Jail its Cellular character.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedt. Servant

(H) A. G. Cardew

Inspector G. of Prisons.

No. 233
W.

Superintending Engineer's Office 4th Circle
Camp Ootacamund, 22nd April 1898.

From

A. H. Garrett Esqr.

Superintending Engineer 4th Circle.

To the Chief Engineer,

P. W. Department, Madras.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 54306, dated 14th December 1897, I have the honor to submit the following remarks on the suggestions made by the Inspector G. of Prisons for restoring the cellular character of the Central Jail at Salem.

2. In the lower storeys of the blocks there are 86 openings in the cross walls to be bricked up, and 96 cross walls to be built in the upper storeys in order to restore the original Cellular arrangement. This work could be done without affecting the stability of the building.

3. Each of the cells in the lower storeys has at present an iron door, but in the case of the upper storeys, 48 new iron doors each $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ will be required.

4. The Inspector General of Prisons estimates that the cost of making the whole Jail cellular

Cellular would be Rs. 2,000, but the
an approximate estimate submitted by the
Executive Engineer in which schedule rates
to are allowed amounts to Rs. 6,240. If
12 convict labor was employed there would
be a saving of about Rs. 1,200.

5. The approximate estimate prepared
by the Sub Divisional Officer has been
checked by the Executive Engineer and
may be accepted as fairly correct.
Each wall to be constructed in the
upper storey contains 162 cubic feet
and there are 96 of them. The Inspector
General of Prisons only allows Rs. 7¹/₂
for each wall including plastering. The
iron doors measure about 20 Sq. feet
and could not possibly be made for
Rs. 20.

6. If the upper storeys were converted
into cubicles the cost of corrugated
iron partitions would exceed that of the
brick walls.

7. I regret the delay in submitting
these remarks. On receipt of the approxi-
mate estimate from the Executive Engineer
in

in January last, I returned it in order
that he might make sure that the
great difference between his estimate
and that of the Inspector General of
Prisons was not the result of a mistake,
and his reply has only just been received.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant
(Sd) A. H. Garrett.
Superintending Engineer
H. C. C.

End
no

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1,000-5-5-98

Judicial Department.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper :—

From the Inspector-General of Prisons, No. 4836, dated 14th September 1897, submitting certain proposals for increasing the Cellular accommodation in this Presidency.

Endorsement of the Public Works Department, No. 277 D dated 13th May 1898, on letter from the Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, No. 233/W, dated 22nd April 1898, submitting remarks on certain suggestions from the Inspector-General of Prisons for restoring the Cellular character of the Central Jail at Salem.

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O R D E R :- No. 847, dated 1st June 1898.

The Inspector-General's proposals in paragraphs 3 & 4 of his letter are approved. He will be requested to state if the work cannot be executed departmentally.

(True Extract)

S. S. Robert
for Chief Secretary.

CC/698

To the Public Works Department.
,, , Inspector-General of Prisons.

CC/698