

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No.

367 45

DATED

15 February 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

District Jail, Nellore. Secy, J. S. Dept., approving the proposals of the J. S. of Prisons for increasing the cellular accommodation in the — and requesting to issue ~~under~~ orders for the preparation of plans & estimates for the work, Comd^d to S. S. G. for necessary action.

15-2-98

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Ignoring the proposals of the
 Inspector General of Prisons for
 increasing the cellular accommodation
 in the 'Ed. J. J. Hall' and requesting
 the R. A. Dept. to issue the necessary
 instructions for the preparation of
 plans and estimates for the
 work.

S.E. II Cassio

1. Remender issued 12-9-98

The seal of the Government of Madras is an oval emblem. It features a central shield with a crown on top, flanked by two lions. The shield is surrounded by a decorative border. The words "GOVERNMENT OF" are arched across the top, and "MADRAS." is arched across the bottom. Two small stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal.

READ the following paper:—

From the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, No.C.109,
dated 19th January 1898:-

In paragraph 108 of the last Annual Report, that for the year 1896, I gave some information regarding the deficiencies in cellular accommodation in some of the District Jails in this Presidency. Since then the passing of the Penal Stage rules, which contemplate Prisoners being confined for a period of all sentences in cells, has drawn fresh attention to the matter. I have now the honour to submit for the approval of Government proposals for increasing the cell accommodation in the Jail which is at present the worst off in this respect, viz, the District Jail, Nellore.

2. This District ^{Jail} has accommodation for a total number of 265 prisoners. Excluding Hospital and special classes (Civil Prisoners, Females &c) there is accommodation for 210 adult male convicts, While the average population of all classes for the three years ending 1896 has been 91.48. The total number of cells at present in existence is two, and these are primarily intended for Prisoners under sentence of Death. The Jail may, therefore, be said to be absolutely without the means of executing judicial sentences of solitary confinement, or Jail punishments of Solitary, Separate or Cellular confinement. Still less is it possible to carry out the period of cellular confinement contemplated by the Penal Stage Rules.

3. The absence of vacant ground within the Jail renders any large provision of cells impossible, unless the Jail

enclosure were extended. This would be costly, but something can be done to provide a sufficient number of cells for judicial and Jail purposes without much expenditure. After examining the jail, I find that there is room to build 4 cells in the North East corner in continuation of an existing block of two small wards. These two wards accommodate seven prisoners each, and I propose to bisect them and turn them each into two cells. By this means 8 cells would be provided. Moreover as there is a large excess of accommodation over average population, I propose to convert another ward, which at present accommodates 19 prisoners into 6 cells, thus raising the total cellular accommodation to 16. The total accommodation of the Jail will then stand at 246 instead of 265, a reduction of only 19, the average population being 91.49. Nellore is already within easy reach of the Vellore Central Jail, and will in a few months be only 4 or 5 hours' direct rail from Madras.

4. The cost of the proposed changes will be small. The 4 new cells at Rs. 300/- per cell, will cost Rs. 1,200, while the work of ^{altering} ~~altering~~ the existing wards so as to provide 10 cells will not, I think, exceed Rs. 1000. This work will include the building of seven partition walls, the provision of 8 iron-barred doors at Rs. 30/- each and of 6 or 8 ventilators, and the planking of the ceilings with timber to render them secure against escape.

5. In the present state of the finances it is understood that expenditure on this work would be impossible. But the preparation of the Estimates by the Public Works Department is always a work of time, and in no case is it possible that any funds would be asked for until the official year 1899-1900. In these circumstances I would request that the Public Works Department may be authorised to put in hand the preparation of the Estimates, so that when funds are available, the scheme may be ready for execution.

ORDER

ORDER :- No. 224, dated 8th February 1898.

The Inspector-General's proposals are approved and the Public Works Department will be requested to issue the necessary instructions for the preparation of plans and estimates for the work in question.

(True Extract)

Adhikari.
for Chief Secretary.

H.
8-2-98

To

The Public Works Department ✓

..., Inspector-General of Prisons