

18/8/37

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1035A	Press
99-1020	Mis.
Dated 16-8	18/10
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

18/8/37

No. 1035-A.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Port Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
 HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 23rd April 1870, No. 2036, requesting that further inquiry should be made regarding the practice which appeared to prevail at Pondicherry of allowing Réunion coolies, belonging to the Bengal Presidency, to disembark at that port on their return home. I am also to acknowledge docket, No. 2445, dated 20th May last, and docket, No. 3405, dated 18th July last, communicating further correspondence on the same subject.

2. In reply, I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, furnishing the information required. It would appear that three parties of Bengal returning emigrants have disembarked at Pondicherry. In two of these cases the coolies seem to have left Pondicherry by land, without the knowledge of the Consular Agent, and without making any claim to be forwarded to Calcutta.

3. From the recent correspondence forwarded under docket, No. 3405, it appears that the French Government have been moved by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to issue to their Administration at Réunion the necessary instructions for assuring to the Bengalee emigrants a return free of expense to their own country. In cases where the coolies cannot be sent direct to Calcutta, the port from which they were taken, Her Majesty's Government request that they may be despatched to Pondicherry and thence to Calcutta at the expense of the French Government.

4. It seems, therefore, probable that returning Bengalee coolies may occasionally still be landed at Pondicherry, and the necessary instructions have, therefore, been issued by the Madras Government to the Consular Agent at that port to watch carefully the arrival of vessels at Pondicherry with Bengalee coolies, so as to secure for these the advantage to which they are entitled of being forwarded from Pondicherry to Calcutta with the least possible delay, and at the expense of the French Government. The Government consider, however, that it is very desirable that the disembarkation of coolies belonging to the Bengal Presidency, at Pondicherry, should, if possible, entirely cease, as there will almost always be difficulties and irregularities in forwarding these coolies from Pondicherry to Calcutta.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OOTACAMUND,
 16th August 1870.

Chief Secretary.

From J. H. BLAIR, Esq., Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Madras, 14th July 1870, No. 64-W.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, of June 30th, 1870, with your Under Secretary's endorsement requiring submission of the report called for in Government Order, 14th May 1870, No. 613.

2. In reply I beg to state that I entered into communication with the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry on the subject, but before receiving his answer, Government Order of June 4th, 1870, No. 715, was sent to me.

3. On consideration thereof, I believed that the matter had been finally settled, as orders had been sent to the British Consul, Réunion, not to despatch any more Bengal emigrants, *via* Madras Presidency, and, therefore, did not report on the subject.

4. I was informed by the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, that only two lots of Bengal emigrants had ever disembarked at Pondicherry. The first of thirty-three men from the *Anna* on the 2nd December, (regarding which I reported fully to Government.*)

* See letter of 6th Jan. 1870, No. 2, from Protector of Emigrants, to Chief Secy. to Govt., Fort St. George, in Procs. of Madras Govt., Pub. Dept., 11th Jan. 1870.

5. The second disembarkation of coolies was from the Ship *Formosa*, on April 18th, 1870. Sixteen men landed late in the evening, and the British Consular Agent states that, before he knew anything about them, they had left Pondicherry, the letter informing him that they were on board and would be landed, not having been delivered till after their departure.

6. No report was sent to me by the British Consular Agent, and no explanation has been given by him why he failed to report the landing of the emigrants; he certainly ought to have known they were on board, and should have inspected them on landing.

7. On the 5th July another batch of seventeen coolies (thirteen men and four women) were landed at Pondicherry from the French Ship P. A. J.; they were in good health, made no complaints, and left Pondicherry on the 5th instant, en route for Madras. They have not, however, appeared before me.

8. Copy of a letter from the British Consul, Réunion, is forwarded, giving his reasons for sending these coolies by the P. A. J.; this officer appears to have taken upon himself to disobey the orders of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; referred to in paragraph 3 of the Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, quoted in Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Department, of June 4th, 1870.

9. I have only further to state my decided opinion, that no coolies belonging to the Bengal Presidency should be allowed to embark in ships calling at Madras Ports, on any pretence whatever.

Edw. J. Wright.

Home 1870 Dept.

From Government of
Fort St. George.

Dated 16th Augt. 1870. No.
Enclosures
R. Spare copies

D. No. D.
Proc. No.
L. No. 1035-A.

Furnishing further particulars regarding the practice prevailing at Pondicherry of allowing Réunion coolies belonging to the Bengal Presidency, to land at that port on their return home.

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To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

No. 1035-A

Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 23^d April 1870, No. 2036, requesting that further enquiry should be made regarding the practice which appeared to prevail at Pondicherry of allowing Réunion coolies, belonging to the Bengal Presidency, to disembark at that port on their return home. I am also to acknowledge despatches No. 2445 of 20th May last and despatch No. 3405 of 18th July last communicating further correspondence on the same subject.

L. D. S.

2. In reply, I am to submit for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, furnishing the information required. It would appear that three lots of Nengale returning Emigrants have disembarked at Pondicherry. In two of these cases the coolies seem to have left Pondicherry by land, without the knowledge of the Consular Agent, and without making any claim to be forwarded to Calcutta.

From the recent correspondence forwarded under docket N^o 3405, it appears that the French Government have been

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moved by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to give to their administration at Reunion the necessary instructions for allowing to the Nengale Emigrants a return free of expense to their own country. In cases where the coolies cannot be sent direct to Calcutta, the port from which they were taken, the British Government request that they may be despatched to Pondicherry, and thence to Calcutta at the expense of the French Government.

4. It seems therefore probable that returning Nengale coolies may occasionally still be landed

H. M.

landed at Pondicherry, and
the necessary instructions
have therefore been issued
by the Madras Government
to the Consul at
that port to watch carefully
the arrival of vessels at
Pondicherry with Nagalce
Cookies, so as to secure for
those the advantage to
which they are entitled
of being forwarded from
Pondicherry to Calcutta with
the least possible delay
and at the expense of the
French Government. The
Government consider
however that it is very
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embarkation of cookies
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5 10
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Presidency, at Pondicherry,
should if possible entirely
cease, as there will almost
always be difficulties and
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these cookies from Pondicherry
to Calcutta.

P. B.

Got command
16th August/70.

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Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of
Department

Dated

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Home 1870. Dept.

From Government of

Fort St. George.

Dated Aug. 16 } 1870

No.
Enclosures.
spare copies.

R.

D. No.

Progs.

L. No. 1035 a.

D.

No.

1663

Nos. 99. 102 A.

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