

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.	
G.O., DATED	24-7-98
No.	571

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When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Apprises the per-
sonals of the Sup-
Arch Survey for
the restoration of
certain of the prin-
cipal of the ruins
at Vijayanagar
& desires that
you in the
P.H. Dept- for the
preparation of the re-
casing estimate.

BACK PAPER, No.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 11

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (NOT PAGED).

N.B.—

A — Copy in full.
B — Not to be copied.
P — Copy abstract only.
Q — Copy heading only.

CURRENT No.

Archaeological Survey, Madras.

Bangalore.

13th July 1893.

No. 286.

From

A. REA, ESQUIRE,

SUPERINTENDENT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,

MADRAS,

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to report to Govern-
-ment some works of restoration which it is
desirable should be carried out on certain of
the principal of the ruins at Vijayanagar.
These are noted below, and, if they meet with
approval, I would request that the Public
works Department might be asked to prepare
estimates for their being carried out.

2 - The "Throne", or Mahanamana
dibba is a building, noteworthy for its
unique sculptures. They are carved on all
the four faces of the walls from base to sum-
-mit. A great portion of the sculptured
basement is covered with debris. An excava-
-tion has been made at the left half of the

front. Some of the blackstone sculptures thus exposed, are really wonderful for fineness of execution. Others similar, are doubtless on the opposite half of the front, and granite sculptures underground on all the sides. This excavation makes the building seem about a half higher than it appeared before, and if the debris were cleared from all around, and removed for some distance, all the sculptures would be seen and the effect of the building greatly enhanced.

3. The Narasimha avatar is a huge monolithic figure standing inside a walled enclosure. The interior of the building is blocked with rubbish. This should be removed. The arms and legs of the figure have been fractured, and some pieces lie on the ground, other pieces are doubtless underneath the rubbish. In clearing, these pieces of the limbs should be carefully picked out, laid to one side, and fixed in their places on the figure.

4. At the Pavilion in the centre of the Palace buildings enclosure, the earth should be cleared from the lower floor, and a trench dug around the sides of the building to expose the buried basement. If, at the first portion of the trench, the base should appear unmodelled or unornamented, it may probably be unnecessary to proceed further.

5. On the north-west angle of the fortifications, standing a few hundred yards in that direction from the Hazara Rama temple is a curious tower with a series of domed chambers in the upper storey. The debris should be cleared from the upper floors. The lower part of the building appears solid, but I see no reason why it should have been built so, and if a room really exists it may contain something of interest. To ascertain this, the earth should be removed from around the base inside the fortified walls.

6. The remains of a water conduit formed of earthenware pipes embedded in cement; a monolithic barred stone door, like the wooden ones seen in temple gopuras; two long turned piers with a hole pierced through the top; and some large grinding stones, lie near the fort walls a short distance in front of the Hazara Rama temple. A space might be cleared around these objects, as they are of especial interest; but some of them are so blocked up, that they are probably seldom seen by visitors to the ruins. Search might be made for the second half of the door, which perhaps lies covered up near. Numbers of pieces of fine black stone carving lie scattered about among the debris lying in this

part. These might be collected, and laid for security in the compound of the Kamalapur bungalow where some others already are.

7.- The stone car at the Vittala temple has lately had its brick tower removed, as the fractures in the side walls were becoming wider. Four stone piers have been set up for support in the interior angles, but as they do not reach from floor to ceiling, a slight space remains at the top between them and the ceiling they are intended to support. In these spaces, only temporary wedges of loose pieces of wood have been placed. These wedges should be at once replaced by pieces of granite or other close grained stone fixed in cement. As the thin panels of the sides and back are badly fractured, it would be further desirable for their security, and to take the whole weight of the roof off them, to have a firm backing of stone walls built inside and against the two sides and back, between the piers referred to. These new walls would extend from floor to ceiling and be of the same thickness as the piers. They and the piers would thus bear the whole weight of the ceilings, and transfer it to the foundations which are formed of large blocks of granite and perfectly secure. The existing thin walls are so cracked in all directions that they are unfitted to stand

very even the masonry which remains after removal of the tower.

8.- The two watchmen, lately engaged to cut vegetation from the walls, might be directed to remove the luxuriant growth of trees on the tifications in the neighbourhood of the place and Hazara Rama temple. It should also be their duty to prevent or report any removal of gravel or fixed stones from the ramparts of the fortified walls.

9.- At the tower of the temple of Anantasayana - on the road from Hospet to Kamalapur - a large bush grows on the north-east angle of the wall head. Some others smaller are growing on other portion of it.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

your most obedient servant,

H. H. S.
Superintendent.

CURRENT NO. 1912

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY, MADRAS.

Pub Dept

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY,
MADRAS.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY
to the Government
of Madras.

Dated 15

Despd. 14

Recd.

July 1893

ENCLOSURE

No. 286

Subject.

Reports on some
proposed restorations
at the ruins of
Vijayanagar.

Pub 402819.5-93
" 8388 3-12-92
" 7288 21-10-92
" 6628 21-9-92

24th July 1893
571

order 22 July

This proposal is approved. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department for the preparation of necessary estimates.

L.P.
21/7/93

P.P.
9/7

DESPATCH

1 AUG

To the Public Works Department A
Superintendent Archaeological Survey
Copies
29/7

24/7