

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No., 530

DATED 7 5 97

INDEXED.

W3
12/5/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Received by the Collector of Tanjore a letter from
the Govt of Straits Settlements reporting on
the alleged prevalence of venality & dishonesty
among Indian immigrants on the Gula Estate.

12/5/97.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Lucas	2871	7/5/97					

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1607

Need this for to
H. M. 2/5/97
file are?

From

The Govt. of India

R. to a kept.

(Immigration)

No. 570

Q. 8-3

Order No. 53087-5-97

Communicated

to the Collector of Tanjore
with ref to his Encl

No. 4410 - Rev d/27th
November 1896

Dated

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

17

26

27

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4-97

SUBJECT.

Forwarding letter from

the Govt. of Straits Settlements

No. 894/12-3-97

Dec '96 - There is nothing the prevalence of desertion and
to be done at present in 1896 regarding mortality on Gula Estate.

has been made, it is reported
that desertions were equally
heavy in Puz, Malakoff
& Valdivia Estates. A special

enquiry regarding the Gula estate

is in progress (under para 4 of C.A. Sec. 181), and the result
will be communicated. A. 5-5-97

G.O.	No.	Department.	Day.
G.O.	95	Pub	2-2-97
	1359	..	28-12-96
	456-7	..	27-10-96
	1144-6	..	24-10-96
	890	..	19-8-96
	944	..	14-11-95
	166	..	8-3-95
	718	-	25-9-94

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.110/6.2 of the 22nd January last giving cover to a communication from the Government of Madras relative to the prevalence of desertion and mortality on Gula Estate

Acting Indian Immigration Agent's Report
dated 13th December 1894.
Mr. Adam Stewart's Report dated 3rd January
1895.
Report of Mr. Stephens, Assistant Indian
Immigration Agent, Perak dated 7th
January 1895.

After receiving these reports my letter of 30th January 1895 was addressed to you.

4. The Manager of the Gula Estate was dismissed last year; a special enquiry has been ordered and I hope to send you the result before long. It will be observed that while Gula Estate is the largest importer of Indian Immigrants, it pays a rate of wages which is low compared with that commanded by free immigrants; also that the Government departments (both Public Works and Railways)

10

420

which employ coolies near the estate, import no coolies from India, but attract coolies by offering high wages.

5. The isolation of the estate from other estates managed by Europeans has already been brought to the notice of the Madras Government. The other estates in the neighbourhood are owned by Chinese who as a rule import no labour from India, though they use Indian labour when they can obtain it locally.

6. As regards mortality, the coolies who desert are certainly more vigorous than those who stay behind and this fact alone must influence the death rate seriously.

Report by the Acting Indian Immigration Agent.

8. The Manager of Gula Estate informs me that a large percentage of the coolies recruited are unfit for agricultural labour, 90 per cent of the total desertions consist of coolies in the first year of their agreement.

9. The Sub recruiters in India misrepresent matters to the coolies while being recruited, though while in depot the terms of their contract and the labour they have to do on the estates out here is thoroughly explained to them by the Superintendent of the Depot.

10. I have known numbers on their arrival complain to me that they are unaccustomed to field labour, when asked the reason of their coming if they were not field labourers, they said they were tutored by the recruiters to say (if asked at the depot at Nagapatam, they were agricultural labourers.

11. Crimping is rife - the Manager of Gula Estate had three convictions in 1893 and several other cases occurred in which convictions could not be proved for want of evidence.

12. Government Contractors and owners of Chinese Estates, who do not import Indian Immigrants themselves, are able to pay higher wages, this being a great inducement for the

Immigrants

Immigrants to desert.

I have etc.,

Gd. M. Evans,

Acting Indian Immigration Agent, SS.

Perang, 13th December, 1894.

The Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited
Gula Estate, 3rd January, 1895.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 143/94, I am at a loss to know why Mr. MacGregor in his report has singled out Gula in connection with desertion, unless it was the fact of his knowledge of the causes of it, as, according to his own figures, other Estates show a proportionately higher loss. In proof of this I enclose two tables, compiled from his report, which show the relative rates of desertion from this and from the different Sugar Estates in Province Wellesley.

It ought also to be borne in mind that Gula imported almost twice as many coolies as any of the other estates that comes under report, while it is well known that 90% of the coolies who desert are in the first year of their agreement, many of them having been on the estate only a few days.

The Acting Indian Immigration Agent in paragraphs 8 and 12 of his letter of 13th ultimo to the Resident Councillor mentions the chief causes of desertion. The isolated situation of the estate, crimping the high wages offered by Chinamen and others, who do not themselves import Indian coolies, and the proximity of extensive Government works where the wages are as high as 30 or even 35 cents per day. All these have tended to increase the number of desertions from Gula.

For the rest, the coolies are well treated, the tasks are not excessive and the food is good.

stiff

stiff field is met with; everything in fact is done by myself and staff, by making the coolies comfortable, to keep desertion down.

I have etc.,

Sd. Adam Stewart,

Manager.

The Assistant Indian Immigration Agent,
Perak, Taiping.

(A).

Desertion.

Comparative statement extracted from Indian
Immigration Agent's Annual Report 1893.

Names of Estates.	Immigrants under 1st contract.				Remarks.
	Totals.	Number deserted	%	Arrivals 1893.	
Pyram	564	53	9.4	none	No new arrivals.
Trans Brian	410	49	11.9	37	Very few new arrivals.
Patu Kawan	1,272	164	12.9	422	Estate situated on an island and very few new arrivals.
Caledonia	1,094	152	13.9	327	Few new arrivals.
Vald'or	283	50	17.7	119	Very few new arrivals.
Gula	1,473	265	17.9	703	Large number new arrivals.
Prye	1,015	195	19.1	273	Very few new arrivals.
Valakoff	434	97	22.3	10	Only 10 new arrivals.

(B).

Names of Estates.	*Remaining on 31st December 1893.	Deserted.	%	Arrivals 1893.	Remarks.
Pyram	413	53	12.8	none	No new arrivals.
Trans Brian	343	49	14.3	37	Very few new arrivals.
Patu Kawan	1,029	164	15.9	422	Estate situated on an island and few new arrivals.
Caledonia	642	152	23.4	327	Few new arrivals.
Vald'or	190	50	25.1	119	Very few new arrivals.
Prye	762	195	25.3	273	Very few new arrivals.
Gula	1,836	265	25.5	703	Large number new arrivals.
Valakoff	310	97	31.3	10	Only 10 new arrivals.

*After deducting desertions, deaths etc.

Compiled by Adam Stewart,
Manager, Gula Estate.

Copy of a minute by the Assistant Indian Immigration Agent.

Sd.,

With regard to para. 4 of letter from the Government of Madras, I would point out that the desertions complained of viz., 265 out of a total of 330 in the Native States having occurred on Gula that this Estate imported 703 new men out of a total of 917, which would give their proportion of desertions $20\frac{1}{2}\%$ against $76\frac{1}{2}\%$ of new arrivals, so the proportion on the other Estates collectively is almost the same.

The percentage of desertions from two other Estates is equally ^{high} in Province Wellesley, viz., Prye and Valakoff whilst Vald'or is only the merest fraction less, so I cannot see why Gula Estate should have been singled out in this manner by the I.I. Agent.

Gula is almost entirely surrounded by Chinese Cane Growers who give high wages to Tamils to work about their factories and as none of them import labour they naturally have to resort to crimping them from Gula which is so near by.

I think the letter from the Manager of Gula and the Statements attached are a sufficient reply to the queries I sent him.

Sd. A.P. Stephens.

7.1.95.

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