

Public
~~Education~~

(1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 856

Dated 2^d July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Proposed amalgamation of the Lunatic Asylum
Communicating to the Surgeon General for report
the suggestions of the Govt of India in regard to the
pay of the Superintendent of the Asylum and
requesting him & the Sanitary Commissioner
to state their opinions regarding the absorption
of that Govt. that in language and climate there
is very little difference between Madras &
Vizagapatnam.*

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[G. A.]
4,000-22-6-96.

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G. O., DATED *2-7-97*
No. *506.*

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Proposed amalgamation of
Lunatic asylums. —
Conf. to the Surgeon-General for
report the suggestions of the
G. of India in regard to the
pay of the Superintendent of
the asylum, & requesting
him & the Sanitary Com-
missioner to state their
opinions regarding the deser-
-vation of that post that in
language & climate there
is very little difference
between Madras & Vizaga-
-patam.*

No. 490.

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
MADRAS.

Home Department.
Medical.

Simla, the 18th May 1897.

SIR,

I AM directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 74, dated the 23rd January 1897, on the subject of the administration of Lunatic Asylums in the Madras Presidency.

2. I am to say that the Government of India have considered with close attention the arguments stated in your letter No. 1218 (Judicial), dated the 23rd July 1896, against the amalgamation of the Calicut and Vizagapatam Asylums with the Asylum at Madras. It appears to the Government of India that the question of the amalgamation of Lunatic Asylums has to be determined upon important considerations which to some extent tend in opposite directions. On the one hand since this is, in their opinion, the expedient most likely to ensure good management and a careful and sympathetic treatment of the patients, they adhere to the view that it is of great importance in the interests of good administration that each Asylum should be large enough to receive the undivided attention of a duly qualified Medical Officer. On the other hand, the Governor General in Council is in agreement with the Government of Madras in thinking that it is not desirable to confine together very large numbers of lunatics, and that the patients are likely to be happier and to have a better chance of recovery if they are confined in a portion of the country, the customs and vernacular of which resemble those of their own homes.

3. After considering the case of the Madras Asylums in the light of these principles, the Government of India have arrived at the conclusion that the advantages of amalgamating the Asylum at Vizagapatam with that at Madras outweigh the objections to the amalgamation. The Vizagapatam Asylum is a very small one. The patients appear to average about 50. In language and climate there is little difference between Madras and Vizagapatam. The addition to the Madras Asylum would not be material, and in Madras the Vizagapatam patients would have the advantage, under the arrangements I am presently to mention, of being under the care of the most accomplished specialist in mental

disease, whom the Madras Government can find. The Calicut Asylum belongs to a different region of the Presidency, and the Government of India are quite content to leave it on its present footing, until further experience has been gained.

4. In paragraph 6 of your letter of the 23rd July, the question of the salary of the Superintendent of the Madras Asylum is discussed. The Government of Madras consider that the salary of Rs. 600—50—900 originally proposed by the Surgeon-General with the Government of India is insufficient. The Government of India recognize that it is essential that the Asylum should be controlled by a thoroughly efficient Superintendent and that to ensure this a capable officer should be selected while still young and should occupy the post for a considerable time. The Government of India would suggest either pay at the rate of Rs. 700, rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,200, or a substantial staff salary in addition to the pay of the officer's rank. They will be glad to know which alternative the Government of Madras would prefer, and if they select the latter, what rate of staff salary they would consider suitable.

5. In conclusion, I am to request that proposition statements may be prepared showing the financial effect of the proposals dealt with in this letter and that they may be forwarded to the Government of India with the reply to this letter.

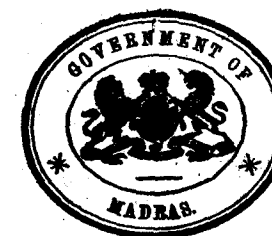
I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. P. HEWETT,

Secretary to the Government of India.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:

Read again letter No. 1218 Judicial, dated 23rd July 1897.

„ „ „ No. 74, Public, dated 23rd January 1897,
requesting India to expedite reply to No. 1218 of 1897 Judicial
in respect of the amalgamation of the Lunatic Asylums at
Calicut and Vizagapatam with that at Madras, and stating that
orders cannot be passed, pending disposal of that question
regarding the execution of certain repairs said to be necessary
at the Calicut Asylum.

Read also the following:

From the Government of India, Home Department, No. 490,
dated 18th May 1897.

ORDER:—No. 856, dated 2nd July 1897.

The letter of the Government of India will be communicated to the Surgeon-General who will be requested to report on the alternative proposals in paragraph 4 of the Government of India's letter, and to submit the proposition statements called for in paragraph 5 thereof.

2. With reference to the statement in paragraph 3 of the letter above referred to that in language and climate there

very little difference between Madras and Vizagapatam it
will be pointed out to the Government of India that although
Tamil and Telugu belong to the same family, they are distinct
and separate languages and that those speaking them are quite
unable to understand one another. His Excellency the Governor
in Council is of opinion that the difference in climate between
Madras and Vizagapatam is very considerable. The Surgeon-General
and the Sanitary Commissioner will however be requested to
favour Government with their opinions on this point with the
least possible delay.

(True Extract)

(sd) A.T.Arundel

Chief Secretary.

*The Surgeon General
Sanitary Commissioner.*

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