

Public (1895⁷) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 93-94

Dated 2- 2- 97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the British Legation, Lisbon, that
the Govt is unable to sanction any grant
out of public funds for the benefit of one
Mrs. Inceca said to live in that city in a
state of complete destitution.

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

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C/O 2328/01 (Sui Loo)							

CURRENT No.

Referred to the Collector
of Malabar for early
report whether there
are any relatives or
^{Order} friends of Mrs. da
Fonseca resident in the
district who are will-
ing to receive and
maintain her and
her children.

From The Secretary,
British Legation,
Lisbon.

No.

Dated 19th Dec '96.

Received } 11/1/97
Registered }

Enclosures —

Spare copies _____

Chief Secretary

$$\frac{453}{15.197}$$

2. 11/10

SUBJECT.

Requesting that help may be afforded
out of public funds to a Mrs da San
-seca, a ~~destitute widow~~, a native
of Cochín now in Lisbon to enable
her & her children to secure a
passage to India.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

British Legation

Lisbon,

December 19. 1896

Sir,

Her Majesty's Minister at this Capital is desirous of bringing to the notice of His Excellency the Governor of Madras the following distressing case.

There is living in this city, in a state of complete destitution, Mrs Eleanor Eliza da Fonseca, the widow of a Portuguese Ship's

The Secretary to His Excellency
The Governor of Madras.

Ship's Captain, but herself a British born subject, being a native of Cochin on the Malabar Coast, where her father Ernest Pape is now stated to be residing.

Mrs da Fonseca is most anxious to rejoin her family in India, together with her 3 small children, who are also here, the eldest being under 10 years old. Unhappily, however, she has no means of paying her and their passage, and her relatives are equally unable to furnish the necessary sum.

Her Majesty's Minister and Lady Macdonell have

have taken a lively interest in the welfare of Mrs da Fonseca, who is an educated and superior person, and they would gladly assist her in her necessitous condition; but there exists unfortunately no fund here — applicable for her case. The resources of local private charity are well nigh exhausted and absolute starvation menaces the entire family.

Under these circumstances, I am to beg that you will lay this letter before the Governor of the Madras Presidency and will

will move His Excellency to sanction ^{the} repatriation of Mrs da Fonseca and her children out of public funds.

The best route available would be from here to Gibraltar by Hall's line, and thence to some Indian Port by whichever line may be deemed most suitable.

In the hope of a favourable answer as His Excellency's early convenience.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours very faithfully.

C. Conway Thornthwaite

Secretary of H.M.'s Legation

C. No. 147

Application for repatriation
of Mrs. da Fonseca

FOR ORDERS.

The Secretary of the Legation
at Lisbon seems to have arrived
ideas as to "re-patriation". Mrs.
da Fonseca was a British subject
born in India. When she married
the present husband - her children
have never been British subjects or
been domiciled in India. In fact,
the other children are all legally &
the latter actually foreigners. Why
should this Govt. bear the imputation
of 4 destitute foreigners? I can
see no reason at all & would (civily)
refuse the grant of funds.

RS

20/1/97

I don't see how we can grant
money in this case.

JS

21/1/97

Leonard

23/1

197

The Secretary of Her Majesty's
Legation, Lisbon, reports, at the
request of the Minister, that the
is living in that city in a state
of complete destitution &
Mrs. Eleanor Eliza da Fonseca
who is anxious to regain her place
in India, and begs that Govt.
will sanction the repatriation
of Mrs. Fonseca and her three
young children out of public
funds. He suggests as the
best route available - Lisbon
to Gibraltar by the ^{the} Hall's line, and
thence to some Indian port
by whichever line may
be deemed best.

Mrs. Fonseca is the widow
of a Portuguese Ship Captain
but herself a British born
subject & married to a

her father Ernest
Pope is stated to be now
residing. She has no means
of paying her passage and
her relatives are unable to
help her.

M^{rs} Fonseca is reported to
be "an educated and superior
person" and the Minister
who takes "a lively interest
in her welfare" would gladly
help her but that there is
no fund available. The
resources of local private
charity are exhausted and
absolute starvation men-
aces the entire family.

It is submitted that the
matter may be referred
to the Collector of Calcutta
for report as to whether
M^r. Pope is still in Calcutta
and whether he is able
and willing to support
her.

There is no precedent
in this case but the papers
put up show that in
certain special cases

has sanctioned the
payment of passage
money from India
to England &c. of persons
left destitute here. The
circumstances however
were quite different

In 1874 Govt sanctioned
the grant of Rs 600 (2nd
class Paid passage) to
enable the widow of W.
Henry Morgan [Editor of the
Folkestone Gazette Press who
died heavily in debt, leaving
M^{rs} Morgan, who had arrived
from home at Bombay only
to hear of his death, utterly
unprovided for] a
passage home. Plein
see G.O. 322 Ptdy 19.3.74
flagged when it is also
incidentally stated that
in July 1871 a passage-
money grant of Rs 1000
was made to the widow
of the Head Master of the
Rajahmundry School
In 1873 provision was
made at the cost of Govt
for the return passage
of one Syed Omar who
described himself as
"the late son of Abbas, Duke
of the Island of Johanna"
to that island vide
G.O. 169 Ptdy 22.4.73

Again in 1878

£2,500 was given by
or to enable the widow
of a Captain John Castor,
a master attendant
of the port of Cocanada,
to return to England
with her children.

In June 1861 Arthur
Jemasfield, son of an apothecary
in Madras, was shipped
as coolie "Moonoomsing"
to Reunion and allotted
on arrival to an inhabitant
of St Denis on a five years'
agreement. An application
made by the Council to send
the man back to Madras, if necessary,
at the cost of his fare, was
referred by the Govt. in
its letter N^o. 711 Ptdy 16th
June 1862 flagged.

C.S.
cw.
15.1.97 Please see Encl:
for your signature on
the current.

3013
15.1.97. 2.1.97
15/1/97

The case seems a very sad one but
I do not see how this Govt. can
pay for repatriation. Doing so in
this case would be a very inconvenient
precedent.

18/1/97

Application for repatriation of

Mrs. da Fonseca.

(FROM ORDERS)

C.S.

Public dept:

C.No.147

ORDER

Nº 93 22-2-97

The following letter will be despatched to the Secretary, British Legation, Lisbon.

(from orders)

29.1.97

LETTER

Nº 94

To

The Secretary,
British Legation,
Lisbon.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo relative to the destitute condition of Mrs. Eleanor Eliza da Fonseca

2. In reply I am to state that from the information afforded in your letter it would appear that Mrs. Fonseca has no claim whatever on this Govt. ~~H.E~~ the Governor in Council, while sympathizing with Mrs. Fonseca in her unfortunate ^{situation} ~~situation~~, regrets therefore that he cannot sanction ~~any~~ out of public funds for her ~~benefit~~ *benefit*

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined } 2/2 } 1897
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
189 _____

DATED _____

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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

N.B.:-

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