

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1167

Dated 14.9.98.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording correspondence on the condition of
Indian Immigrants on the Gula Estate, Berak,
on the working of the "Surat" System
on the estate, forwarded by the Govt. of
India.

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17/9

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2752

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Order No. 1161, 814 Sept. 1898 From The Govt of India. U. A. Dept

Removes. 1898.

No. 1765
20-3

31/8/98

294
11.9.98

Dated 22 - Aug 98

Received 29

Registered 30

Enclosures 1.

Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information letter from the Govt. of Straits Settlements 125176/98 d/31st July 98 & Enclosures regarding the condition of Indian Immigrants on the Kuala Estate Perak.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	460	Pub	24-3-98
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	1127	"	30-8-97
	930-1	"	28-8-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter from the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 5176/98 dated 31st July 1898.

With reference to your letter No.435/20-2 of the 1st March last, regarding the condition of Indian Immigrants on the Gula Estate, Perak, I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to forward, for your information, copy of a letter from the Manager of the Gula Estate to the British Resident of Perak, and of a letter from the latter officer to the Resident General, Federated Malay States, to whom a copy of your letter under acknowledgment was transmitted.

The Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Limited,
Gula Estate, 22nd June 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. R.G.O.526-98 dated 17th June 1898, enclosing the following:-

- I. Copy of minute by the Resident General, F.M.S., dated 28th April 1898.
- II. Copy of letter No.435-20-2 from the Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, dated Calcutta 1st March 1898.

In reply to these, I have the honour to state that the 'surat' system on this Estate does not seem to be understood.

2. The 'surat' is a ticket on the shop here for the value of, in the case of men, 7½ cents, and of women, 6½ cents.

3. The coolies are worked in gangs, and a European Assistant is in charge of from 200 to 300 men. The name of each coolie and the amount of work done by him is taken

down

down by the Assistant who at the same time, gives out the 'surats' to those who wish them.

Each Assistant also before going to the field at 1 p.m. every day, goes to the office where he gives out 'surats' to those who have not been to work.

It is his particular duty to see that every coolie has sufficient advances of 'surats' to keep him well fed. The Assistant sometimes finds it necessary, in the case of the more troublesome characters, to stop a 'surat', but the coolie has the right to appeal to me, and careful enquiry is always made into every case.

4. The present 'surat' system is most popular with the coolies. I offered them sometime ago to pay weekly wages but they declined, saying that they preferred the present system. I can state definitely that no coolie is ever without food on the estate. There are a few weakly men who do not work for sufficient money to pay for their food and who receive their 'surat' only, as a reference to the pay lists any month will show. To make a rule that every coolie should get advances to the full amount of his earnings, would make the coolie improvident as a number of them when they found they could receive in two days, enough to keep them in food for a whole week, would decline to work the other four days.

5. My second objection is that the above system would increase the number of desertions. There is nothing makes a coolie so dissatisfied as, when pay day comes round, to find that there is no money coming to him. It is of no use to tell him that he has had advances equal to what he has earned, that is forgotten by him and he only sees the fact that he has been working during the month and the others are getting money while he is getting none.

That my present system of food supply is a good one, our record for the past year, and up to the present date this year fully bears out.

6. Our percentage of deaths for 1897 is 1.91 which is lower than any estate in the Peninsula.

At

At no period in the history of 'Gula' has the death rate been so high as the average from the Province Wellesley Estates for 1897. Our percentage of desertions is also lower than any of the 3 large sugar estates employing Tamil labour in Province Wellesley. Our desertions for the year to present date are 43 as against 53 at same date last year.

Our death rate for the present year to date is 1.1.

I have, etc.,

Sd. Thos. Boyd,

Manager.

The Secretary to Government,

Taipeng, Perak.

No. R.G.O. 745-98.

British Residency,

Perak, 11th July 1898.

Sir,

Referring to your paper C.S. 323-98 on the subject of the 'surat' system on the Gula Estate and to my minute thereon of date 17-6-98, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter, dated 22.6-98, which the Manager promised to address to me after his recent interview with me.

2. I think we may accept his assurance that 'surats' are supplied daily and that no coolie on the Estate need go without food for a day.

3. The Government of India appear to be under the erroneous impression that a coolie cannot obtain food on any days he does no work even although wages may be due to him. You will find from Mr. Boyd's letter that this is not so.

4. I will forward the whole of this correspondence to the present Acting Indian Immigration Agent and will instruct him to inspect the estate and report in the usual course.

I have, etc.,

Sd. W.H. Treacher,

British Resident, Perak.

The Resident General, Federated Malay States.

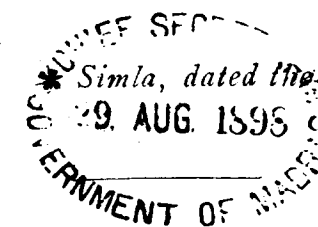
CURRENT No. 2752

No. 1765
20-3

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration.)



Simla, dated the 21nd August 1898.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 436/20-2 dated 1st March 1898.

To 466 Pub C
21.3.98

By order,

W. M. M. M. M.

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Letter from the Government of Straits Settlements, No. 5176/98 dated the 31st July 1898 and enclosures.

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When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189 .

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER & GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DEPOSITION
 IN ORIGINAL.

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