

(1) Number of Pages 4

(2) Date of repair 27-5-68

(3) Initials of the Referencer 22.18

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	607	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	31.3.1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Elephants.

Read the following papers :—

No. 136. From H. St. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George, Vizagapatam, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Jeypore, 12th February 1875, No. 19.

I have to report the death of the Government Elephant "Soma Sundari," which was attached to this Agency, on the 25th ultimo.

2. This elephant was taken with me on my present tour into the hills. When I reached Guampore it had gripes from which it suffered for two days, and its feet were very unsound. The Mahout professed his ability to cure it. I took the animal on with a light load for a few marches, and as it did not seem to be fit for ghat work, sent it from Jattaly back to Vizianagram to be treated at the Maharajah's "Pilkana." The first report I had was of its safe arrival, and that nothing serious need be apprehended. The second report, which was received on the 25th January, announced its death after showing some dropsical symptoms.

3. The causes of the mortality lately observed in the Vizagapatam establishment are, I think, the want of a stable, the keeping of the elephants at Vizagapatam where the proper supply of fodder is obtained with difficulty, and want of exercise which it has not been the practice to give in sufficient degree. In the case of the elephant whose death is now reported, the ignorant Mahout had been previously in the habit of administering excessive doses of mercury some time back, and the state of the poor brute's feet was ascribed to this. A stable shall now be built, and with care, I see no reason to doubt that the elephants will enjoy as good health as those under my charge at Russelcondah and Baliguda did from 1865 to 1868. Endeavours shall be made to procure good Mahouts, and inquiries shall be made as to the best place for keeping elephants as far as fodder is concerned.

4. This elephant is one of the only two that remained attached to this Agency when I left Head-quarters. The other one I was obliged to leave at Vizianagram under the care of the Maharajah for reasons already reported in a letter from this office, dated 28th July 1874, No. 380, paragraph 4.

5. There is now not a single elephant for use in this department. As to the four elephants ordered in G. O., dated 15th September 1874, No. 1718, the Commissary-General informs me that he could not purchase them at Burmah in consequence of very high prices having been asked for them.

6. The produce of the Keddahs in Mysore and Coimbatore were sold during the past autumn, as I am told, at very cheap rates, and I believe that other captures are likely to be effected in those districts.

7. I have the honor therefore to request that the Government will be pleased to issue such orders as may secure the supply to this Agency of the elephants whose services are absolutely necessary in the Agency tracts.

Referred to the Commissary-General for report, from what source elephants can be obtained for the Agency.

27th February 1875.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th March 1875.*

No. 136-A. From Colonel J. LOUDON, Commissary General, Madras, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 4th March 1875, No. 9060.

I have the honor to return the letter received with your endorsement of the 27th February 1875, referred to me for report, as to the source whence elephants can be obtained for the Vizagapatam Agency.

2. The animals required should evidently be of a hardy breed, healthy, seasoned, and fit for immediate service in the hill tracts. For such work newly captured elephants will not answer, and the hunts in Chumbatore and Mysore cannot furnish at once suitable animals; they would require from 18 months to 2 years quiet work and training, before they would be serviceable.

3. The Burmah elephant is a good hardy animal, but the failure of this season's attempt to obtain elephants from that quarter shows that that source is not always to be relied upon, and I can hold out no assurance of being more successful next cold season.

4. The reports from Secunderabad received last year gave no promise of obtaining suitable animals in the city of Hyderabad even at exorbitant prices.

5. The Commissariat Establishment is so far below its complement, that no assistance can be spared from it.

6. It might be ascertained whether the Forest Department on the Annamallays at Mudamullay, or elsewhere, have any elephants to spare, but failing these I can only suggest another trial to be made on the Western Coast. The animals procurable in Malabar and Travancore have the character of being more hardy than those of Coimbatore, Mysore or Coorg, and two were obtained by purchase in Travancore for the Ganjam Agency in 1873—*vide* Order of Government in the Judicial Department, No. 721, dated 7th May 1873.

7. Elephants are brought for sale to the great fairs held at Sonapore and other places in the north, and the Bengal Commissariat might be able to purchase, at some of these, animals of the description required for the Vizagapatam Agency.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1875, No. 665.

It has already been ascertained from the Resident that no elephants can be procured from Travancore and Cochin.

2. The Commissary General will put himself in communication with the Bengal and Bombay Commissariat Departments in view to ascertaining what aid can be expected from those quarters and will lose no opportunity for securing the required number of suitable animals, and the Agent in Vizagapatam can likewise make inquiries. Meanwhile it will be ascertained from the Forest Department whether they can spare any elephants for the Agency.

(True Extract)

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam.
Commissary General, Madras.
Revenue Department.

Edw. T. O'Connor

11/15/1911

Recd. N. H. ...
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To the Inspectors of the ...

Recd. N. H. ...
No. 1192

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Recd. N. H. ...
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