

Mr Nelamegam s/o Malairaja

(1949)

Accession number: T15004

Track Number: T15004\_0001, T15004\_0002, T15004\_0003, T15004\_0004, T15004\_0005,  
T15004\_0006

Duration: 02:55:38

Language/Dialect: Tamil

<b>Track: T15004_0001</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:04</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Born in 1949 in Queen Street. His father's occupation. Mentioned his father passed away in 1966. His mother's occupation. Types of pastries that his mother made for sale. His and his brother's role in his mother's business. Mentioned delivering pastries to the shops on foot. Described the scene on streets in the early morning when he delivered pastries. Selling prices of the pastries. Described how people's work opportunities being affected when Indian ships stopped coming in. His ancestral background.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0001</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:04 - 00:20:22</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Studied at St. Xavier's. Went to work in Kedah after graduation. Described his work experience. The reason of becoming a coolie. Described his job scope. Described helping his father in work when he was young. Wages for bag carrying. Mentioned there were no longer jobs for the coolies when Indian ships stopped coming. Work accident ever faced. His superior at work. How the coolies were identified. Named the companies that he had worked for.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0001</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:20:22 - 00:31:03</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued naming the companies that he had worked for. Types of business conducted by the companies he had worked for. Mentioned how he felt when beginning to work as the supervisor. Mentioned getting hit by a hook on hand when he was working as a coolie. His working hours as a coolie. Described his daily routine. Mentioned how Queen Street looked like in the early morning when he was working as a coolie.</p>	

<b>Track: T15004_0002</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued describing Queen Street in the early morning when he was working as a coolie. Location of the street lights in Queen Street. The coolie's wages. Described work procedure when the ship arrived. Described once a wood fell on his leg. Described the work procedure. Types of goods being carried and their weights. Described the work procedure.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0002</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:07</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described how he would spend his rest time. How wages were calculated and given. Mentioned that supervisors would be given extra wages. Mentioned being attacked once by other coolies. Mentioned an accident happened at work that brought casualties. Explained how to determine if the bags were to be carried by Chinese or Indian coolies. Mentioned an accident happened at work.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0002</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:20:07 - 00:31:03</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Types of accident that could easily happened at work. What he liked about the job as a coolie. The frequency of ship arrival. Mentioned coolies' work shifts. How wages were calculated. How the coolies were notified about the coming of ships. Mentioned the work shifts. His other jobs other than goods carrying. His monthly wages. Described the onion basket.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0003</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:07</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Explained that wages were given depending on the type of goods, weights and destinations. His working hours. Explained his current fish hooking job. Places for loading and unloading of goods. Mentioned being assigned to the weighing and recording job. His wages for the weighing job. Weighing tool used. Mentioned that the wages for the hooking job would be divided equally amongst workers.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0003</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:07 - 00:20:01</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>How he managed the time to work for different jobs in a day. Mentioned that the wages for the hooking job were divided equally amongst workers. The reason of being scolded sometimes. How he reacted when being scolded. Described the handling of torn gunny bags. Sewing tools used to sew torn gunny bags. Described a place called "7<sup>th</sup> Junction" (Simpang Lelong). Mentioned coolies' drinking habits in the past. Mentioned taverns' operating hours.</p>	

<b>Track: T15004_0004</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:31</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Became a supervisor (kangani) at a later time. How he obtained the job in 1969. How did his father pass away. The family's reaction to his father's passing. How they managed the family income after his father passed away. The ship he worked on as a supervisor. How he felt in the beginning of the work. Shops that he worked at. Differences between the job as a coolie and as a supervisor. Described his work in calculating wages. Highest salary he could get working as a coolie or as a supervisor. Working hours as a supervisor. How did he inform coolies about availability of work.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0004</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:31 - 00:20:12</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>How he wore to work. His working hours. Described distribution of work in the workplace. Described the calculation of wages. Mentioned a work accident that happened to his colleague when he was still working as a coolie. Compensation for the injured workers.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0004</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:20:12 - 00:34:57</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>How he felt as a supervisor when workers were injured. Examples of work accident that occurred. Described sending injured workers to the hospital. What would make him happy as a supervisor. Described a work accident in which six workers passed away due to exposure of chemical spray. Precaution taken after the accident. The way to inspect if the hatch was safe to work. Described other workers' feelings after the accident. Mentioned the ship was closed down two months after the accident in 1976. Described his daily routine. How he lost his job when Penang was declared as a free port.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0005</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned having to work at the Weld Quay Workers Union (which later became the Penang Port Workers Union). Purpose of the kavadi dancing by port workers during Deepavali. Person in charge of kavadi decoration. Mentioned staying in Queen Street from 1948 to 1975. Number of families staying in the Queen Street house. How he felt when needed to share toilet with many others. Building materials of the house. Described the situation in the house in day time and at night.</p>	

<b>Track: T15004_0005</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:00</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned elderly people would sleep outside the house. Mentioned one of his housemates mistakenly drank <b>mann</b> oil used in cleaning and passed away. Described celebrating Deepavali in the house. Moved out of the house in 1970 when it was sold. Described how his father performed a ceremony and collected money to send back to India.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0005</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:20:00 - 00:31:03</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described selling betel nuts when there was no work on ship. Described the daily routine when he was selling betel nuts. How to identify if the betel nuts were dried. Country of origin of these betel nuts. Described drying betel nuts. Described the work procedure after drying them. The betel nuts exporting countries.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0006</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:10</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>His betel nut customers. Places used to dry betel nuts. Described turmeric processing. Selling price of betel nuts. Income he could get by selling turmeric. Other spices that he processed. Explained clove processing. Selling price of cloves. Monthly income he could get. Described how his body was impacted by his previous work as a coolie.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0006</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:10:10 - 00:20:00</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described religious practice. Explained how Hindu Mahajana Sangam was started in 1995. Position held in Hindu Mahajana Sangam. What did Hindu Mahajana Sangam do. His role in Hindu Mahajana Sangam. Described helping in rice cooking during Thaipusam.</p>	
<b>Track: T15004_0006</b>	<b>Time frame: 00:20:00 - 00:27:31</b>
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned what made him happy now. Mentioned feeling sad when passing by the church and recalled those killed during the fire on ship. The memorable place for him. Hoped to have a society specifically for Indians. Described how George Town had changed.</p>	