

Financial (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 800

DATED 15-7-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Nos: Rev dept. passing orders on the scheme submitted by the Deputy Commissioner Revenue Settlement, and the Bd. of Rev for the resettlement of the Godavari D.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Financial (189) Department.

CURRENT No.

From

The Revenue Department.

Order No. 800 of 15-7-99
ms

Recorded.

Press No. 436

Dated 7th July 1899.

Received

Registered

Enclosures -

Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on the scheme submitted by the Deputy Commissioner -- and the Board of Revenue for the Re-- settlement of the Godavari District.

A.S. (scd) 2/10/99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT NO. 4486

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

-131-

Read the following papers:-

- (1) G.O. No. 222, Revenue, dated 27th August 1894.
- (2) G.O. No. 225 Revenue dated 10th September 1895.
- (3) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 43, dated 12th March 1896.
- (4) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 62, dated 15th April 1896.
- (5) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 2393 dated 14th May 1896.
- (6) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 23, dated 8th May 1896.
- (7) From the Secretary to the Managing Committee of the Godavari District Association, dated 25th August 1896.
- (8) From the Secretary to the Managing Committee of the Godavari District Association, dated 1st October 1896.
- (9) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, etc No. 1754 R., dated 24th November 1896.
- (10) From the Vice-President, Godavari District Association, dated 20th December 1896.
- (11) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 486, dated 8th July 1897.
- (12) From the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co., No. 234, dated 22nd September 1897.

ORDERED that the papers, 1/ 7th July 1897.

The papers read above relate to the resettlement

of the Godavari district. The scheme of resettlement prepared by the late Mr. G. P. Clerk, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, and the remarks of the District Officers thereon are reviewed by the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings, No. 42, dated 12th March 1892. The papers have been published and have been freely commented upon in three exhaustive memorials submitted to the Government by the Godavari District Association as representing the agricultural population of the district. At the request of the Association, the Government also received a deputation of fifteen of its leading members on 23rd May 1892 and had the advantage of hearing a very full and able exposition of their objections to the Board's proposals.

2. The more important of the objections urged in the memorials have been discussed and answered in Board's Proceedings, No. 428, dated 24th July 1892, and the papers printed therewith. The Government concurs generally in the Board's remarks and considers it unnecessary to review the memorials in the present place; but takes this opportunity of assuring the memorialists that, in arriving at a decision on the various problems of the resettlement, their representations have been given careful consideration.

3. The present settlement was introduced into the Western Delta taluks, excepting 22 villages in Milore, in fasli 1272 (1821-22) *and into the rest of the district in fasli 1276 (1866-67)*. The economic history of the district since this period has been one of continued prosperity. Population has increased 33 per cent. Livestock have more than doubled. Ryots' holdings have increased by 50 per cent. Communications have greatly improved. Trade and commerce have vastly expanded. Prices have doubled. It was only to be expected therefore that a revision of the settlement should lead to a substantial increase in the money rates fixed more than thirty years ago.

4. The Government will now briefly review the ~~Vetera~~.
F. The Delta taluks- Re-classification of soils.- After a --
careful consideration of the arguments in the memorials of
the District Association, the Government is of opinion that
the instructions issued in G.O. No. 225 Revenue dated 10th --
September 1895, for the reclassifications of the soils in --
the Delta taluks were right. As the prices of food-grains
have approximately doubled since the original settlement, a
much larger enhancement of the existing land revenue than --
Government wishes to impose might indeed be attained by a per-
centage enhancement of the existing rates. If, for instance,
the existing delta dry rates and the four-ropes water-rate --
were enhanced by only 25 per cent. With reference to the rise
of 100 per cent. in prices, the result would be a much larger
increase than will be secured by the acceptance of the ---
scheme now under consideration; but this plan would intensify
the long recognised evils inseparable from the change of a --
uniform water-rate. The uniform water-rate would press too --
heavily on the poorer soils, while the richer soils would --
continue to escape their fair share of the burden of taxation.
For the introduction of a graduated water-rate, or of a con-
solidated wet rate, a classification of the delta soils, --
with reference to their fitness for wet cultivation and pre-
sent facilities for irrigation, was indispensable. In making
this classification, the introduction of the alluvial series
was desirable first as being correct, and second as affording
a wider and more elastic range of rates.

G. Standard Crops.- Mr. Clerk proposed "white paddy" for wet
land, and "black paddy" for dry land. In the case of wet
land there can be no doubt. In the case of dry land, the ---
Board shows that the alternative method of taking the cheapest
and the nearest staple dry grains as standards and bringing the
the areas under other crops with the one or the other according

to the known value of the crops would have a result less -- favourable to the ryot. The Government accepts the choice of "black paddy" as the standard grain for dry land.

7. Grain outturns.-- For wet lands the scale of outturns -- sanctioned for Tanjore is proposed as moderate and appropriate. The estimated yields range from 1150 Madras measures for the best land under first-class irrigation down to 300 Madras measures for the worst land under the fourth-class irrigation proposed by the Board. At the original settlement the outturns were estimated at from 1200 to 400 Madras measures. For "dry" land the estimates proposed vary from 750 to 125 Madras measures as against 850 to 50 Madras measures at the original settlement. It is observed from ^{graph} para 40 of the Western Delta Report that at the original settlement the yield of 50 Madras measures was considered applicable to only 372 acres and that with this exception no land was classed as yielding so little as 100 Madras measures. There can be no reasonable doubt that the proposed estimates are moderate. Indeed it may be questioned whether the desire to secure rates uniform with those in Tanjore is a sufficient reason for reducing the grain values of the original settlement. The Government will, however, accept the proposed outturns as favourable to the ryots.

8. Commutation rates.-- It is proposed to take the rate for white paddy at Rs.128, the average price of first and second sort paddy for the whole district for the 20 non-famine years ending with fasli 1303. From this is deducted 15 per cent. for merchants' profits and charges of transport leaving Rs.110 per sarce. ~~as the rate for white paddy.~~ For black paddy the rate is Rs.96 per sarce.

The objections raised by the Collector and the District Association to these rates have been fully discussed and met

by the Board. The Government considers that the rates are fair and favourable to the ryot inasmuch as it cannot be denied that the elimination of years of high prices in which the delta ryots reap extraordinary profits, and which are in truth non-famine years so far as the Delta is concerned, is a concession which might without injustice be withdrawn.

9. Deduction for unprofitableness of seasons, unprofitable areas

It is proposed to fix the deduction on this account at 10 per cent. in the case of wet land and 20 per cent. in the case of dry land.

The Government is inclined to think the allowance unnecessarily liberal in the case of wet land but ^{will} concede the point in favour of the ryot.

10. Cultivation expenses.-- These are fixed at from Rs. 14 to Rs. 5 per acre for wet land and from Rs. 8 to Rs. 2-2-0 per acre ~~per acre~~ for dry land. These rates which, as remarked by the Board, are more than double those allowed at the original settlement, and which represent from one-third to three-fifths of the estimated gross produce, are accepted.

11. Grouping of irrigation sources.-- The late Deputy Commissioner proposed two classes only, almost the whole of delta irrigation being placed under the first class. The Board would have four classes to meet cases of defective drainage giving notice to the ryots that, on the gradual remedying of the defective drainage, the irrigation class will be liable to be raised during the term of settlement. The Government concurs with the Board in its proposals. It also agrees that the grouping should be carried out by blocks instead of, as usual, by villages. Great care will be necessary in giving effect to the proposals; but the Government notes that the Board considers there will be no serious difficulty.

The necessary notice should be clearly given in the usual settlement notification.

12. ~~Money~~ rates.-- The rates finally arrived at by the Board

for wet lands after taking into consideration the additional
 irrigation groups it recommends, are exhibited in the fol-
 lowing table:-

Primary turn	1st class sources	2nd class sources	3rd class sources	4th class sources
1	2	3	4	5
I	Rs. 12	Rs. 10	Rs. 8	Rs. 6
II	Rs. 10	Rs. 8	Rs. 6	Rs. 7
III	Rs. 9	Rs. 8	Rs. 7	Rs. 6
IV	Rs. 8	Rs. 7	Rs. 6	Rs. 5
V	Rs. 7	Rs. 6	Rs. 5	Rs. 4-8-0
VI	Rs. 6	Rs. 5	Rs. 4-8-0	Rs. 4-8-0
VII	Rs. 5	Rs. 4-8-0	Rs. 4	Rs. 3-8-0
VIII	Rs. 4-8-0	Rs. 4	Rs. 3-8-0	Rs. 3
IX	Rs. 4	Rs. 3-8-0	Rs. 3	Rs. 2-8-0

For dry lands the rates arrived at by the late Deputy
 Commissioner and accepted by the Board are as follows:-

Rates per acre for					
First group			Second group		
Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
7-	0-	0	4-	0-	0
6-	0-	0	3-	0-	0
4-	0-	0	2-	8-	0
3-	0-	0	2-	0-	0
2-	8-	0	1-	8-	0
2-	0-	0	1-	4-	0
1-	8-	0	1-	0-	0
1-	4-	0	0-	12-	0
1-	0-	0	0-	8-	0
0-	12-	0	0-	4-	0
0-	8-	0	0-	4-	0

The above rates are accepted. In particular, the
 Government

Government agrees with the Board that the special rate of Rs. 7 should be imposed on the area of about 2270 acres of exceptionally rich alluvial clay in parts of Parachandrapuram, Analapuram and Parasapur taluks. The Government approves the proposal that for padugais (lands within the river flood banks) and lankas (islands) the rates should be one and two grades higher respectively than for ordinary alluvial dry lands of the same class and sort. The unassigned padugais and lankas should as recommended by the Collector and the Board continue to be leased out. As ordered in G.O., No. 390, Revenue, dated 25th January 1899, the leases -- should be for short periods.

13. Method of assessment. -- In ^{graph} paras 27 to 35 of its Proceedings submitting the scheme the Board has given strong reasons in support of the proposal already approved by Government that a consolidated wet rate should be imposed on all lands ~~so situated that the Government water cannot in fact be excluded at the option of the cultivator.~~ It would be quite in accordance with the general rule and the custom of the Presidency were Government to go further than this and direct that all land to which a supply of water can be assured should be classed as "wet" and assessed at wet rates but on a careful consideration of the question the Government resolves to adopt the following arrangement. All Government land which has been for five consecutive years under wet -- cultivation, or from which, in the opinion of the Settlement Officer, Government water cannot be excluded, will be assessed with the appropriate consolidated wet rate. As irrigation under the amlat will continue to extend and improve the settlement notification should contain a distinct provision -- that dry lands which during the term of the settlement become in the opinion of the District Collector unfit for dry --

cultivation

cultivation will be transferred from "dry" to "wet", and --
will be assessed at the appropriate consolidated wet rate.
In respect of other Government lands the option hitherto
permitted of using or refusing Government water will be --
continued, and when water is used, the water rate to be --
charged will be the difference between the dry and the wet
rate according to the classification of the soil plus Rs. 1
an acre in consideration of the option, still enjoyed by
them, and of the administrative inconvenience caused there-
-by. This addition of Rs. 1 per acre as water rate will ---
operate as an inducement to crops to accept the consolidated
rate and as the charge will be not be incurred except vo-
luntarily the rate can afford no just ground for complaint.

A second wet crop on wet land will be charged half
the single wet assessment as elsewhere in the Presidency.
Sugarcane and plantains will continue to be regarded as a --
double "wet" crop and will be charged one and a half times
the single wet assessment. The water rate for dry crops on
wet land will be half the difference between the dry and the
wet rate as recommended by the Board in ^{graph} para 41.

14. It should be clearly understood and notified
that the lands assessed with a consolidated wet rate will
have a preferential claim to be supplied with water, and the
Government reserves the right to alter the charge for water
supplied to lands assessed as "dry", from time to time, as
may appear expedient.

The consolidated wet rate will remain unaltered for --
the usual period of 30 years.

15. The method of charging for water supplied to
lands in Zamindari and whole inam villages and to minor --
inam lands remains to be considered. Up to date the minor
inam lands have alone been classified and under the con-

New plan

9
construction placed by recent decisions of the High Court on Madras Act VII of 1885, an amendment of that Act is required to place beyond dispute the right of Government to levy water rate on land from which the Government water can not be excluded.

Pending the amendment of the Act, and the survey and classification of the commanded areas in Zamindari and whole innam villages the existing method of charging a uniform water rate of Rs. 5 per acre must be continued in respect of water supplied to land in Zamindari, whole innam villages and minor innams.

It should be notified that this is a temporary arrangement, and that Government reserves the right to modify the method of charging for water, and the rates, at its discretion.

The Board will report what progress has been made with the survey of the commanded areas in Zamindari and whole innam villages and what arrangements are necessary for undertaking their classification.

16. The existing rules for the levy of water rate in Godavari contained in the Appendix to Standing Order No. 4 of the Board of Revenue will now be modified. The Board of Revenue is requested to submit a draft of the necessary changes as soon as practicable.

17. From the data in the papers before it, the Government can frame no accurate estimate of the financial result of carrying out the resettlement on the principles approved above. The Board is requested to collect the necessary data and to furnish the Government at as early a date as possible with a financial forecast of the results of the resettlement. The issue of the usual resettlement notification and the introduction of the resettlement need not, however, on this account be delayed.

18. Upward taluk. In G.O. No. 153 dated 2nd April 1900, the

the Government has agreed with the Board that no reclassification of the Godavari uplands should be made and has accepted the Board's proposals that classification of the nonclassified area of cultivable waste amounting to about 57,000 acres may be confined to blocks of 100 acres and upwards and that the classification of the rented villages also hitherto not classified may be carried out in accordance with the modern method of classification. Reclassification having thus been negatived, it remains to consider the late Deputy Commissioner's proposals for the revision of the grouping of the villages in consideration of improved communications and for the enhancement of the money-rates in view of the rise in prices. In the opinion of the Government the Board has shown convincing reasons against any attempt to revise the grouping without a reclassification of soils. The Government therefore approves the Board's proposals to make an all round enhancement of one-third of the existing rates. The result will be an increase of ----- Rs. 1,22,140 on the existing assessment as shown below:-

Particulars	Area	Assessment					
		Existing assessment less 3% on account of cess	Results by raising the rates by 3 1/3% and 4%	Difference between col. 3 and 4	Percentage of difference (col. 3 and 5)	Average rates of assessment per acre	
						Revenue as assessed on Revenue area (col. 2 and 3)	Proposed results on Revenue area (col. 4 and 5)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. A.P.	Rs. A.P.
"Dry"	297,249	184,728	230,233	+45,505	+25	0-9-11	0-12-11
"Wet"	23,005	324,579	281,713	+42,866	+30	3-9-0	4-10-1
Total	320,254	409,307	511,946	+102,639	+25		

19. Incremental resumption.-- The Government agrees with the Board that the benefit of the incremental resumption -- rules may be granted over the whole district.

20. The introduction of the new resettlement on the lines approved both in the delta and the upland portion of the district should now be proceeded with as soon as possible and should take effect from and including -- fasli 1309 (1899-1900). The resettlement will remain in force for the usual period of thirty years.

(True extract)

A. T. M. M. M.
As. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett. Co.
Copy to the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue.
.. .. Financial Department.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

1899

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILLED 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.

Manuscript to R. S. C. on 17.7.99
Remitted on 27.7.99
2nd do on 7.8.99
Another do on 24.8.99
checked do 20.9.99
do do 30.9.99
recd 2.10.99