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[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief Works. Authorising the Accountant General to place a sum of Rs 30,000 at the disposal of the Pub Works Dept from savings under 45. Civil Works for — in the Bhadrachalam Taluk, Godavari District.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Government { 1897 } of Madras.
FINANCIAL.

<i>Recd.</i>	} 1897.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>		<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 139, 11th February 1897.

FEBRUARY.

Relief Works.

Authorising the Accountant-General to place a sum of Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department from savings under 45. *Civil Works* for — in the Bhadrachalam taluk, Gódvári district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., No. 74, Revenue, dated 5th February 1897.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 19th January 1897, No. 42 :—

Read—the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódvári District, to the Collector of Gódvári-Cocanada, dated Rajahmundry, 25th December 1896, Ref. on C. No. 4684-S.A.A., and endorsement of the Collector of Gódvári, thereon, dated 4th January 1897, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896 :—

With reference to your endorsement, Ref. on C. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896, dated 14th December 1896, on B.P., No. 386, dated 3rd December 1896, I have the honour to report as follows :—

I have returned from my tour in Bhadráhalam taluk. Not more than half an inch of rain fell and even that was not general throughout the taluk. It cannot, therefore, be said that the rain, such as it was, improved the prospects of Bhadráhalam at all. The Kapus, who live in the riverside villages, are not likely to feel the distress much, for their cholum will yield something and they can buy rice which is imported from Rajahmundry by boats. But there are considerable numbers of people also in these villages who live partly by cooly and partly by small patches of cultivation. Owing to want of rain, in some cases, they attempted no cultivation at all this year and in other cases the crops failed utterly. There is not likely to be much demand for labour, for the river is exceptionally low and the timber trade is thereby hampered. With regard to the hill people, only a few families here and there have any stock at all. They depend, as I have already reported, on the *konda jonna* crop which is grown on their *podus*. This crop almost entirely failed; in very many cases it was cut early and used as fodder. This hill cholum is harvested in the latter part of December and early in January. About the end of January the hill people will find themselves face to face with a cheerless prospect. They will have no grain. They have no money and can buy no grain. The stock of roots, leaves, &c., on which they are even now partly subsisting is getting exhausted and the ground—so the Koyas say—is too hard for the roots to be dug out. The produce of the tamarind trees and mango trees is likely to be poor this year, and the same may be said of the *ippa* flowers which would ordinarily form a large item of food in April. The Sowcars, it is feared, owing to the failure of crops, will not make the usual advances to the Koyas and the work of cutting bamboos, &c., in which the hill men are ordinarily employed, is not likely to last much longer and in fact is even now being stopped in some localities.

2. It is true that the hill people can get along on very little and can subsist in a wonderful fashion on toddy and arrack. But they must have their hill cholum as well. This is especially the case with regard to the hill people living to the north of the Sabari river. They are mostly Koyas and are agricultural in their pursuits. They will, I think, if necessity forces them, come to relief works. The headmen of a good number of villages came to me when I was at Dumagudem and asked for work, and said they would readily come if a road were undertaken from Bhadráhalam to Latchigudem. I have, therefore, proposed this as a test-relief work.

3. The hill men living to the south of the Sabari river are mainly Reddies and much wilder in their habits. The result of their *podu* cultivation has been miserable. But the jungle is thicker here and they have a larger stock of roots, &c. They nevertheless are already feeling the scarcity and of course will do so more after the January harvest time. But I anticipate there will be some difficulty in getting these people to come to relief works. I had a typical conversation with the headman of

Kondepudi. He said the people of his village wanted food and no doubt he meant it, but when I asked him if they would come and make a road through the forest by merely cutting trees he would not entertain the idea for a moment. I asked him what work they would do and he said “we will cut bamboos in these forests around here, put them on our shoulders, and bring them down to the water here. That is all we will do.” I think this is probably the frame of mind of most of the Reddies. For these men, test-relief works should be opened, I think, as near as possible to the villages. Mr. Ward, the Forest Sub-Divisional Officer, has proposed that the work of digging up stumps along the forest demarcation lines might be undertaken and I support the proposal.

4. I regret that I have not got at present complete proposals for test and other relief works. I told the Tahsildar to send up a programme and I am now sending him an urgent reminder. The ordinary famine-relief programme for this taluk unfortunately is of no use, for the estimates are not ready. Even if they were, my opinion is that it would be a waste of money to spend it on a road from Parnasala to Kunavaram. The road would be liable to submersion in several places by the river each year.

5. The allotment for ordinary public works in Bhadráhalam is practically exhausted so that we shall want a grant of money for the relief works. No money can be spared from the allotments for the other divisions, for it is unwise to reduce the demand for labour there. As soon as the programme is received from the Tahsildar, I shall forward it with an estimate of the sum required. The works should be started as early as possible in January.

Endorsement by R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Gódvári, dated 4th January 1897, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture in continuation of this office letter No. 3825-Ver., dated 21st December 1896.

2. The further report promised by the Special Assistant Agent in paragraph 5 of his letter is awaited.

Read—also the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódvári District, to the Collector, Cocanada, dated Rajahmundry, 5th January 1897, Ref. on C. No. 4805, and endorsement of the Collector of Gódvári, thereon, dated 9th January 1897, Ref. No. 4048-Ver. of 1896 :—

In reply to your Ref. No. 4048-Ver., dated 23rd December 1896, I have the honour to submit my proposals for the opening of test-relief works in Bhadráhalam taluk.

2. The part most affected is the interior of the taluk to the west and north of Sabari. The number of people likely to require relief is estimated by the Tahsildar at 10,000. I propose, therefore, the following works :—

(i) Making a road from Singavaram through Tunikicherla to Bandirevu, thence to Yedugurallapalli, from thence to Pegha, Vankagudem and Chatti on the Buster frontier. An estimate is sent herewith. It is approximate and provides for cutting jungle, uprooting stumps and removing stones. The total is Rs. 4,800 at ordinary rates. At Famine Code rates, the work will provide employment for 1,000 men for one month and a half. Should it be found that large numbers of labourers are attracted, earth-work may be undertaken for the same road. The estimate for such work may be taken approximately at Rs. 475 a mile. The length of the road is about 40 miles. Total estimate for earthwork would, therefore, be about Rs. 19,000.

This work would make a very useful road through the interior.

(ii) Earthwork to the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram. This will provide labour for the inhabitants living to the east and south of the Sabari. Estimate (approximate) is submitted herewith amounting to Rs. 13,780 (at ordinary rates).

(iii) Bhadráhalam to Latchigudem—estimate for Rs. 2,000—is submitted.

These three are, I consider, the most suitable test works. I send, however, estimates for supplementary test works if found necessary—

- (a) Road from Venkampalem to Gidiguppa.
- (b) Road from Waddigudem to Chinturu (earthwork).

I request that sanction may be obtained and a sum of Rs. 30,000 be placed at our disposal to start these works. I have already explained in a former report that the works proposed in the famine relief programme of this office are not available, and, moreover, no sanctioned expenditure, which would give employment to labourers, remains unutilized in this taluk.

The works may be undertaken under the supervision of the Revenue Department. I propose that paymasters and maistries for the gangs in such number as may be found necessary be entertained. The Revenue Inspectors may be made to supervise the works on the different roads. Kitchens will also have to be opened in connection with the separate works and the necessary establishment entertained.

I have written to the Tahsildar to report at once what tools will be required and whence they may be obtained. I have also directed him to make arrangements so that grain may be supplied either by contract or any other suitable way. Some of the merchants in the riverside villages may be willing to contract for the supply of grain and this must be ascertained in good time beforehand.

It will be seen that the works for which estimates are now sent cost Rs. 47,672 in all. That is at ordinary rates. The cost of famine rates may be taken roughly to be Rs. 25,000 (*i.e.*) rather more than half. This should provide employment for 10,000 for one month. We must add some for gratuitous relief and supervision charges, &c. I have, therefore, asked for Rs. 30,000 at least. It would perhaps be wiser to ask for more, considering the long time that it takes for correspondence between Bhadrachalam, Cocanada and Madras. If half a lakh be sanctioned, 10,000 people could be kept on for about two months. The Tahsildar has been informed that the estimates sent up are insufficient and he has been called upon to devise a programme for giving employment to 10,000 people for six months. I request that the Forest Department may be asked to furnish estimates for the uprooting of stumps along the forest demarcation lines, a work which might also be taken up. The estimates should show also the direction of the lines.

Endorsement by R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Gódvári, dated 9th January 1897, Ref. No. 4048-Ver. of 1896.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, &c., in continuation of this office, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896, dated 4th January 1897.

2. I concur with the Special Assistant Agent in thinking that distress is imminent in the interior of the Bhadrachalam taluk to the west and north of the Sabari. The following test relief works will be opened in order:—

- (i) Road from Singavaram to Chatti—40 miles—estimate Rs. 4,800.
- (ii) Road from Bhadrachalam (Chennammagudem) to Latchigudem—20 miles—estimate Rs. 2,000.

These two works consist of clearing jungle and uprooting stumps for the most part, a labour which is most congenial to the hill people and, if they are attracted to it, the necessity of starting the next work, which consists of earthwork, will be determined.

(iii) Earthwork to the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram—29 miles—estimate Rs. 13,780.

3. The number of persons for whom relief is likely to be required is reported to be about 10,000. I request that an allotment of Rs. 30,000 may be sanctioned at once, so that the test works may be taken in hand as early as possible. Of course, payment for labour will be made at the rates laid down in the Famine Code. The

Special Assistant Agent reports that there are no funds under sanctioned expenditure available to be utilized for the test-relief works. After some experience is gained on the above test works, I shall be in a position to report further on the subject of giving gratuitous relief and starting kitchens. For the present, the execution of the works will be managed by means of the ordinary staff, except that it may be necessary to appoint a few paymasters and maistries for the gangs. I am addressing the Superintending Engineer with regard to the number and description of tools required.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhadrachalam Range, to the District Forest Officer, Gódvári, dated Kunavaram, 2nd December 1896, R.C. No. 637.

In forwarding copy of the report called for in your R. C. No. 813, dated 13th December 1896, I have the honour to report that the slight rain that fell last month has improved the state of affairs here. The *manchi jonna* along the Gódvári between Kunavaram and Bhadrachalam will yield a fair crop and some of the *konda jonna* in the interior, a four-anna to eight-anna crop. But most of the *konda jona* will hardly yield anything, and there will be distress in the interior villages.

In the Rékapalli Range most of the people of the villages from Pulusumamidi to Gidiguppa and along the Gódvári down to Kollur will find work in cutting bamboos till the end of February or the middle of March and again after the south-west monsoon sets in and the internal will live on advances from the merchants. In the same manner, but to a smaller extent, will work be obtainable by the villagers between the hills and the rivers from Abbicherla on the Sabari to Gaviridevipet on the Gódvári. A very large number of Koyas in the Bhadrachalam Range are employed in cutting timber in the Buster forests. But I am told that the villagers in the north-east corner of the range have neither work nor crops.

In the northern half of the centre portion of the range and in the Marrigudem Range from Thati lanka westwards, the people will, I am told, have exhausted their food supplies by the end of February. In the Rékapalli Range, except in the portions mentioned above, the same state of things exists.

If the *Ippa* flowers abundantly, it will furnish a large supply of food. But what the season will prove cannot be known till February and March.

Test works may, I think, be commenced in February on the roads from Dumagudem and Bhadrachalam meeting at Singavaram and thence *via* Cherupalli, Bandirevu, Yedugurallapalli, &c., to the Sabari; on the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram and thence to Socanamamidi and Chinturu. Other works may be opened as occasion calls for.

Resolution—dated 19th January 1897, No. 42.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of B.P., No. 18 of 1897.

2. As shown in the marginal table, the rainfall of the past season at Bhadrachalam

RAINFALL at Bhadrachalam.

Period.	Average.		1896-97.
	INCHES.		INCHES.
April	..	0.78	1.35
May	..	1.98	..
June	..	6.19	3.30
July	..	10.53	7.30
August	..	10.35	10.00
September	..	7.90	8.10
October	..	2.88	..
November	..	1.11	6.20

was fair up to August, but, as over the rest of the northern districts, failed in September and since then there has been less than a quarter of an inch of rain, in November. The failure of the usual cholam crop, on which the people chiefly depend, has been very general and more complete in the interior than near the Gódvári, where a small yield has been obtained. Prices at Bhadrachalam are very high, rice being at 9.9 and cholam at 12.5 seers per rupee, and have been maintained at these rates for some time past. The

drought is stated to be preventing the hill people from obtaining their usual supplies of roots, and the Collector is of opinion that test-relief works should be opened. This has already been approved of in the Proceedings above quoted.

3. In his second letter read above, the Collector asks that Rs. 30,000 may be placed at his disposal for relief purposes; and proposes to carry on the relief works with the ordinary district staff. The Board recommends that the grant applied for

may be made, but that of the sum Rs. 2,000 should be set aside for gratuitous relief at kitchens. It also considers that the Public Works Department should be called upon to supply the necessary professional staff for carrying out the works, payments being arranged for by the Revenue Department. The Public Works Department Officer deputed to the taluk should be directed to join at once, and having in view the remoteness of the locality should, the Board considers, be placed under the orders of the Special Assistant. He should be directed to prepare a reasonable code of tasks suitable to the work in hand and the people who come on the works, and to get it approved by the Special Assistant, who should, owing to the time a reference to the Collector under section 107 of the Code would require, be granted the powers of a Collector under that section. The Public Works Officer selected should place himself in communication with Mr. Ward and cordially invite his co-operation, for there is no one in the Gódávri Agency who has so much influence with, and so fully enjoys the confidence of, the Koyas as Mr. Ward.

4. No reports have been received regarding the condition of the other portions of the Agency Tracts alluded to in paragraph 4 of B.P., No. 386 of 1896, and it is presumed that the Collector feels no anxiety regarding them. In these circumstances, the Special Assistant should, for the present, remain in Bhadrachalam, in order that he may not, as he appears to be, be so dependent on the Tahsildar for information.

5. In future, the fortnightly narrative of the Special Assistant should be submitted punctually as prescribed in section 46 of the Code, with such remarks as the Collector may desire to offer.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávri.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Accountant-General.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd January 1897, Mis. No. 484 :—

Read—the following telegram from the Collector of Gódávri, dated 21st January 1897 :—

"My Reference 4048, 11th instant. Wire sanction 30,000 for relief Bhadrachalam."

Resolution—dated 22nd January 1897, Mis. No. 484.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 42-Press of 1897, with the request that the necessary orders and allotment may issue.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th January 1897, Mis. No. 561 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Gódávri, dated 21st January 1897, Ref. on C., No. 4048-Ver. of 1896 :—

Adverting to Board's Proceedings, No. 18 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th January 1897, I have the honour to refer the Board to my Ref. Nos. 3825-Ver. and 4048-Ver. of 1896, dated 5th and 11th instant, and to report that I have had reports of the District Forest-officer and his Sub-divisional officer, from

time to time, relating to the distress in the Bhadrachalam taluk. The imperative necessity for the opening of test-relief works in that taluk has already been urged in my last communication, and funds amounting to Rs. 30,000 were applied for. I now solicit the orders of the Board, by wire, placing the requisite funds at my disposal.

Resolution—dated 26th January 1897, Mis. No. 561.

Submitted for the very early orders of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, Press No. 42, dated 19th and Mis. No. 484, dated 22nd January.

2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector :—

"Open test work Bhadrachalam in anticipation of allotment of funds."

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Gódávri.

Order—No. 74, Revenue, dated 5th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Orders will issue in the Financial Department for placing Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department

for relief works in the Bhadrachalam taluk.

2. All the relief works in this taluk will be placed under the control of the Public Works Department.

3. The Public Works Department will be requested to depute an officer at once to the taluk.

4. It is not clear whether the roads referred to in the Special Assistant's letter, dated 5th January 1897, are included in the programme of roads to be constructed in the Gódávri agency recently submitted by the agent to the Judicial Department. Some deviation from that programme may be necessary. But the agent should adhere to it as far as possible. Otherwise a number of roads may be made, which will not work in with the general scheme for opening up the agency and which it will be impossible to maintain.

5. The Special Assistant Collector will be authorized to exercise the powers of a Collector under section 107 of the Famine Code.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Financial and Public Works Departments.

ORDER—No. 139, Financial, dated 11th February 1897.

The Accountant-General is authorised to place a sum of Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department from savings under 45. Civil Works.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.

Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raitt.

401

100/1572

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
FINANCIAL.

Recd.

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} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

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Authorising the Accountant-General to place a sum of Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department from savings under 45. *Civil Works* for — in the Bhadrachalam taluk, Gódavari district.

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The works may be undertaken under the supervision of the Revenue Department. I propose that paymasters and maistries for the gangs in such number as may be found necessary be entertained. The Revenue Inspectors may be made to supervise the works on the different roads. Kitchens will also have to be opened in connection with the separate works and the necessary establishment entertained.

I have written to the Tahsildar to report at once what tools will be required and whence they may be obtained. I have also directed him to make arrangements so that grain may be supplied either by contract or any other suitable way. Some of the merchants in the riverside villages may be willing to contract for the supply of grain and this must be ascertained in good time beforehand.

It will be seen that the works for which estimates are now sent cost Rs. 47,672 in all. That is at ordinary rates. The cost of famine rates may be taken roughly to be Rs. 25,000 (*i.e.*) rather more than half. This should provide employment for 10,000 for one month. We must add some for gratuitous relief and supervision charges, &c. I have, therefore, asked for Rs. 30,000 at least. It would perhaps be wiser to ask for more, considering the long time that it takes for correspondence between Bhadrachalam, Cocanada and Madras. If half a lakh be sanctioned, 10,000 people could be kept on for about two months. The Tahsildar has been informed that the estimates sent up are insufficient and he has been called upon to devise a programme for giving employment to 10,000 people for six months. I request that the Forest Department may be asked to furnish estimates for the uprooting of stumps along the forest demarcation lines, a work which might also be taken up. The estimates should show also the direction of the lines.

Endorsement by R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Gódavari, dated 9th January 1897, Ref. No. 4048-Ver. of 1896.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, &c., in continuation of this office, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896, dated 4th January 1897.

2. I concur with the Special Assistant Agent in thinking that distress is imminent in the interior of the Bhadrachalam taluk to the west and north of the Sabari. The following test relief works will be opened in order:—

- (i) Road from Singavaram to Chatti—40 miles—estimate Rs. 4,800.
- (ii) Road from Bhadrachalam (Chennammagudem) to Latchigudem—20 miles—estimate Rs. 2,000.

These two works consist of clearing jungle and uprooting stumps for the most part, a labour which is most congenial to the hill people and, if they are attracted to it, the necessity of starting the next work, which consists of earthwork, will be determined.

(iii) Earthwork to the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram—29 miles—estimate Rs. 13,780.

3. The number of persons for whom relief is likely to be required is reported to be about 10,000. I request that an allotment of Rs. 30,000 may be sanctioned at once, so that the test works may be taken in hand as early as possible. Of course, payment for labour will be made at the rates laid down in the Famine Code. The

Special Assistant Agent reports that there are no funds under sanctioned expenditure available to be utilized for the test-relief works. After some experience is gained on the above test works, I shall be in a position to report further on the subject of giving gratuitous relief and starting kitchens. For the present, the execution of the works will be managed by means of the ordinary staff, except that it may be necessary to appoint a few paymasters and maistries for the gangs. I am addressing the Superintending Engineer with regard to the number and description of tools required.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhadrachalam Range, to the District Forest Officer, Gódavari, dated Kunavaram, 22nd December 1896, R.C. No. 637.

In forwarding copy of the report called for in your R. C. No. 813, dated 13th December 1896, I have the honour to report that the slight rain that fell last month has improved the state of affairs here. The *manchi jonna* along the Gódavari between Kunavaram and Bhadrachalam will yield a fair crop and some of the *konda jonna* in the interior, a four-anna to eight-anna crop. But most of the *konda jona* will hardly yield anything, and there will be distress in the interior villages.

In the Rékapalli Range most of the people of the villages from Pulusumamidi to Gidiguppa and along the Gódavari down to Kollur will find work in cutting bamboos till the end of February or the middle of March and again after the south-west monsoon sets in and the internal will live on advances from the merchants. In the same manner, but to a smaller extent, will work be obtainable by the villagers between the hills and the rivers from Abbicherla on the Sabari to Gaviridevipet on the Gódavari. A very large number of Koyas in the Bhadrachalam Range are employed in cutting timber in the Buster forests. But I am told that the villagers in the north-east corner of the range have neither work nor crops.

In the northern half of the centre portion of the range and in the Marrigudem Range from Thati lanka westwards, the people will, I am told, have exhausted their food supplies by the end of February. In the Rékapalli Range, except in the portions mentioned above, the same state of things exists.

If the *Ippa* flowers abundantly, it will furnish a large supply of food. But what the season will prove cannot be known till February and March.

Test works may, I think, be commenced in February on the roads from Damagudem and Bhadrachalam meeting at Singavaram and thence *via* Cherupalli, Bandireva, Yedugurallapalli, &c., to the Sabari; on the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram and thence to Soccamamidi and Chinturu. Other works may be opened as occasion calls for.

Resolution—dated 19th January 1897, No. 42.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of B.P., No. 18 of 1897.

2. As shown in the marginal table, the rainfall of the past season at Bhadrachalam

RAINFALL at Bhadrachalam.

Period.	Average.		1896-97.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	
April	0.78	1.35	
May	1.98	..	
June	6.19	3.30	
July	10.53	7.30	
August	10.35	10.00	
September	7.90	3.10	
October	2.88	..	
November	1.11	0.20	

was fair up to August, but, as over the rest of the northern districts, failed in September and since then there has been less than a quarter of an inch of rain, in November. The failure of the usual cholum crop, on which the people chiefly depend, has been very general and more complete in the interior than near the Gódavari, where a small yield has been obtained. Prices at Bhadrachalam are very high, rice being at 9.9 and cholum at 12.5 seers per rupee, and have been maintained at these rates for some time past. The

drought is stated to be preventing the hill people from obtaining their usual supplies of roots, and the Collector is of opinion that test-relief works should be opened. This has already been approved of in the Proceedings above quoted.

3. In his second letter read above, the Collector asks that Rs. 30,000 may be placed at his disposal for relief purposes; and proposes to carry on the relief works with the ordinary district staff. The Board recommends that the grant applied for

may be made, but that of the sum Rs. 2,000 should be set aside for gratuitous relief at kitchens. It also considers that the Public Works Department should be called upon to supply the necessary professional staff for carrying out the works, payments being arranged for by the Revenue Department. The Public Works Department Officer deputed to the taluk should be directed to join at once, and having in view the remoteness of the locality should, the Board considers, be placed under the orders of the Special Assistant. He should be directed to prepare a reasonable code of tasks suitable to the work in hand and the people who come on the works, and to get it approved by the Special Assistant, who should, owing to the time a reference to the Collector under section 107 of the Code would require, be granted the powers of a Collector under that section. The Public Works Officer selected should place himself in communication with Mr. Ward and cordially invite his co-operation, for there is no one in the Gódvári Agency who has so much influence with, and so fully enjoys the confidence of, the Koyas as Mr. Ward.

4. No reports have been received regarding the condition of the other portions of the Agency Tracts alluded to in paragraph 4 of B.P., No. 386 of 1896, and it is presumed that the Collector feels no anxiety regarding them. In these circumstances, the Special Assistant should, for the present, remain in Bhadrachalam, in order that he may not, as he appears to be, be so dependent on the Tahsildar for information.

5. In future, the fortnightly narrative of the Special Assistant should be submitted punctually as prescribed in section 46 of the Code, with such remarks as the Collector may desire to offer.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Gódvári.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

" " Accountant-General.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd January 1897, Mis. No. 484 :—

Read—the following telegram from the Collector of Gódvári, dated 21st January 1897 :—

"My Reference 4048, 11th instant. Wire sanction 30,000 for relief Bhadrachalam."

Resolution—dated 22nd January 1897, Mis. No. 484.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 42-Press of 1897, with the request that the necessary orders and allotment may issue.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th January 1897, Mis. No. 561 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Gódvári, dated 21st January 1897, Ref. on C., No. 4048-Ver. of 1896 :—

Adverting to Board's Proceedings, No. 18 (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 18th January 1897, I have the honour to refer the Board to my Ref. Nos. 3825-Ver. and 4048-Ver. of 1896, dated 5th and 11th instant, and to report that I have had reports of the District Forest-officer and his Sub-divisional officer, from

time to time, relating to the distress in the Bhadrachalam taluk. The imperative necessity for the opening of test-relief works in that taluk has already been urged in my last communication, and funds amounting to Rs. 30,000 were applied for. I now solicit the orders of the Board, by wire, placing the requisite funds at my disposal.

Resolution—dated 26th January 1897, Mis. No. 561.

Submitted for the very early orders of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, Press No. 42, dated 19th and Mis. No. 484, dated 22nd January.

2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector :—

"Open test work Bhadrachalam in anticipation of allotment of funds."

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Gódvári.

Order—No. 74, Revenue, dated 5th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Orders will issue in the Financial Department for placing Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department

for relief works in the Bhadrachalam taluk.

2. All the relief works in this taluk will be placed under the control of the Public Works Department.

3. The Public Works Department will be requested to depute an officer at once to the taluk.

4. It is not clear whether the roads referred to in the Special Assistant's letter, dated 5th January 1897, are included in the programme of roads to be constructed in the Gódvári agency recently submitted by the agent to the Judicial Department. Some deviation from that programme may be necessary. But the agent should adhere to it as far as possible. Otherwise a number of roads may be made, which will not work in with the general scheme for opening up the agency and which it will be impossible to maintain.

5. The Special Assistant Collector will be authorized to exercise the powers of a Collector under section 107 of the Famine Code.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Financial and Public Works Departments.

ORDER—No. 139, Financial, dated 11th February 1897.

The Accountant-General is authorised to place a sum of Rs. 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works Department from savings under 45. *Civil Works*.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.
Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raith.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódvári District, to the Collector of Gódvári-Cocanada, dated Rajahmundry, 25th December 1896, Ref. on C. No. 4684-S.A.A., and endorsement of the Collector of Gódvári, thereon, dated 4th January 1897, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896:—

With reference to your endorsement, Ref. on C. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896, dated 14th December 1896, on B.P., No. 356, dated 3rd December 1896, I have the honour to report as follows:—

I have returned from my tour in Bhadráchalam taluk. Not more than half an inch of rain fell and even that was not general throughout the taluk. It cannot, therefore, be said that the rain, such as it was, improved the prospects of Bhadráchalam at all. The Kapus, who live in the riverside villages, are not likely to feel the distress much, for their cholum will yield something and they can buy rice which is imported from Rajahmundry by boats. But there are considerable numbers of people also in these villages who live partly by cooly and partly by small patches of cultivation. Owing to want of rain, in some cases, they attempted no cultivation at all this year and in other cases the crops failed utterly. There is not likely to be much demand for labour, for the river is exceptionally low and the timber trade is thereby hampered. With regard to the hill people, only a few families here and there have any stock at all. They depend, as I have already reported, on the *konda jonna* crop which is grown on their *podus*. This crop almost entirely failed; in very many cases it was cut early and used as fodder. This hill cholum is harvested in the latter part of December and early in January. About the end of January the hill people will find themselves face to face with a cheerless prospect. They will have no grain. They have no money and can buy no grain. The stock of roots, leaves, &c., on which they are even now partly subsisting is getting exhausted and the ground—so the Koyas say—is too hard for the roots to be dug out. The produce of the tamarind trees and mango trees is likely to be poor this year, and the same may be said of the *ippa* flowers which would ordinarily form a large item of food in April. The Sowcars, it is feared, owing to the failure of crops, will not make the usual advances to the Koyas and the work of cutting bamboos, &c., in which the hill men are ordinarily employed, is not likely to last much longer and in fact is even now being stopped in some localities.

2. It is true that the hill people can get along on very little and can subsist in a wonderful fashion on toddy and arrack. But they must have their hill cholum as well. This is especially the case with regard to the hill people living to the north of the Sabari river. They are mostly Koyas and are agricultural in their pursuits. They will, I think, if necessity forces them, come to relief works. The headmen of a good number of villages came to me when I was at Dumagudem and asked for work, and said they would readily come if a road were undertaken from Bhadráchalam to Latchigudem. I have, therefore, proposed this as a test-relief work.

3. The hill men living to the south of the Sabari river are mainly Reddies and much wilder in their habits. The result of their *podu* cultivation has been miserable. But the jungle is thicker here and they have a larger stock of roots, &c. They nevertheless are already feeling the scarcity and of course will do so more after the January harvest time. But I anticipate there will be some difficulty in getting these people to come to relief works. I had a typical conversation with the headman of Kondepudi. He said the people of his village wanted food and no doubt he meant it, but when I asked him if they would come and make a road through the forest by merely cutting trees he would not entertain the idea for a moment. I asked him

what work they would do and he said "we will cut bamboos in these forests around here, put them on our shoulders, and bring them down to the water here. That is all we will do." I think this is probably the frame of mind of most of the Reddies. For these men, test-relief works should be opened, I think, as near as possible to the villages. Mr. Ward, the Forest Sub-Divisional Officer, has proposed that the work of digging up stumps along the forest demarcation lines might be undertaken and I support the proposal.

4. I regret that I have not got at present complete proposals for test and other relief works. I told the Tahsildar to send up a programme and I am now sending him an urgent reminder. The ordinary famine-relief programme for this taluk unfortunately is of no use, for the estimates are not ready. Even if they were, my opinion is that it would be a waste of money to spend it on a road from Parnasala to Kunavaram. The road would be liable to submersion in several places by the river each year.

5. The allotment for ordinary public works in Bhadrachalam is practically exhausted so that we shall want a grant of money for the relief works. No money can be spared from the allotments for the other divisions, for it is unwise to reduce the demand for labour there. As soon as the programme is received from the Tahsildar, I shall forward it with an estimate of the sum required. The works should be started as early as possible in January.

Endorsement by R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Gódvári, dated 4th January 1897, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896.

Submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture in continuation of this office letter No. 3825-Ver., dated 21st December 1896.

2. The further report promised by the Special Assistant Agent in paragraph 5 of his letter is awaited.

READ—also the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódvári District, to the Collector, Cocanada, dated Rajahmundry, 5th January 1897, Ref. on C. No. 4805, and endorsement of the Collector of Gódvári, thereon, dated 9th January 1897, Ref. No. 4048-Ver. of 1896:—

In reply to your Ref. No. 4048-Ver., dated 23rd December 1896, I have the honour to submit my proposals for the opening of test-relief works in Bhadrachalam taluk.

2. The part most affected is the interior of the taluk to the west and north of Sabari. The number of people likely to require relief is estimated by the Tahsildar at 10,000. I propose, therefore, the following works:—

(i) Making a road from Singavaram through Tunikicherla to Bandirevu, thence to Yedugurallapalli, from thence to Pegha, Vankagudem and Chatti on the Buster frontier. An estimate is sent herewith. It is approximate and provides for cutting jungle, uprooting stumps and removing stones. The total is Rs. 4,800 at ordinary rates. At Famine Code rates, the work will provide employment for 1,000 men for one month and a half. Should it be found that large numbers of labourers are attracted, earth-work may be undertaken for the same road. The estimate for such work may be taken approximately at Rs. 475 a mile. The length of the road is about 40 miles. Total estimate for earthwork would, therefore, be about Rs. 19,000.

This work would make a very useful road through the interior.

(ii) Earthwork to the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram. This will provide labour for the inhabitants living to the east and south of the Sabari. Estimate (approximate) is submitted herewith amounting to Rs. 13,780 (at ordinary rates).

(iii) Bhadrachalam to Latchigudem—estimate for Rs. 2,000—is submitted.

These three are, I consider, the most suitable test works. I send, however, estimates for supplementary test works if found necessary—

(a) Road from Venkampalem to Gidiguppa.

(b) Road from Waddigudem to Chinturu (earthwork).

I request that sanction may be obtained and a sum of Rs. 30,000 be placed at our disposal to start these works. I have already explained in a former report that the works proposed in the famine relief programme of this office are not available, and, moreover, no sanctioned expenditure, which would give employment to labourers, remains unutilized in this taluk.

The works may be undertaken under the supervision of the Revenue Department. I propose that paymasters and maistries for the gangs in such number as may be found necessary be entertained. The Revenue Inspectors may be made to supervise the works on the different roads. Kitchens will also have to be opened in connection with the separate works and the necessary establishment entertained.

I have written to the Tahsildar to report at once what tools will be required and whence they may be obtained. I have also directed him to make arrangements so that grain may be supplied either by contract or any other suitable way. Some of the merchants in the riverside villages may be willing to contract for the supply of grain and this must be ascertained in good time beforehand.

It will be seen that the works for which estimates are now sent cost Rs. 47,672 in all. That is at ordinary rates. The cost of famine rates may be taken roughly to be Rs. 25,000 (i.e.) rather more than half. This should provide employment for 10,000 for one month. We must add some for gratuitous relief and supervision charges, &c. I have, therefore, asked for Rs. 30,000 at least. It would perhaps be wiser to ask for more, considering the long time that it takes for correspondence between Bhadrachalam, Cocanada and Madras. If half a lakh be sanctioned, 10,000 people could be kept on for about two months. The Tahsildar has been informed that the estimates sent up are insufficient and he has been called upon to devise a programme for giving employment to 10,000 people for six months. I request that the Forest Department may be asked to furnish estimates for the uprooting of stumps along the forest demarcation lines, a work which might also be taken up. The estimates should show also the direction of the lines.

Endorsement by R. H. SHIPLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Gódvári, dated 9th January 1897, Ref. No. 4048-Ver. of 1896.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, &c., in continuation of this office, Ref. No. 3825-Ver. of 1896, dated 4th January 1897.

2. I concur with the Special Assistant Agent in thinking that distress is imminent in the interior of the Bhadrachalam taluk to the west and north of the Sabari. The following test relief works will be opened in order:—

(i) Road from Singavaram to Chatti—40 miles—estimate Rs. 4,800.

(ii) Road from Bhadrachalam (Chennammagudem) to Latchigudem—20 miles—estimate Rs. 2,000.

These two works consist of clearing jungle and uprooting stumps for the most part, a labour which is most congenial to the hill people and, if they are attracted to it, the necessity of starting the next work, which consists of earthwork, will be determined.

(iii) Earthwork to the road from Waddigudem to Lakkavaram—29 miles—estimate Rs. 13,780.

3. The number of persons for whom relief is likely to be required is reported to be about 10,000. I request that an allotment of Rs. 30,000 may be sanctioned at once, so that the test works may be taken in hand as early as possible. Of course, payment for labour will be made at the rates laid down in the Famine Code. The

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 19TH JAN. 1897, No. 42.

Special Assistant Agent reports that there are no funds under sanctioned expenditure available to be utilized for the test-relief works. After some experience is gained on the above test works, I shall be in a position to report further on the subject of giving gratuitous relief and starting kitchens. For the present, the execution of the works will be managed by means of the ordinary staff, except that it may be necessary to appoint a few paymasters and maistries for the gangs. I am addressing the Superintending Engineer with regard to the number and description of tools required.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhadrachalam Range, to the District Forest Officer, Gódávári, dated Kunavaram, 22nd December 1896, R.C. No. 637.

In forwarding copy of the report called for in your R. C. No. 813, dated 13th December 1896, I have the honour to report that the slight rain that fell last month has improved the state of affairs here. The *manchi jonna* along the Gódávári between Kunavaram and Bhadrachalam will yield a fair crop and some of the *konda jonna* in the interior, a four-anna to eight-anna crop. But most of the *konda jona* will hardly yield anything, and there will be distress in the interior villages.

In the Rékapalli Range most of the people of the villages from Pulusumamidi to Gidiguppa and along the Gódávári down to Kollur will find work in cutting bamboos till the end of February or the middle of March and again after the south-west monsoon sets in and the internal will live on advances from the merchants. In the same manner, but to a smaller extent, will work be obtainable by the villagers between the hills and the rivers from Abbicherla on the Sabari to Gaviridevipet on the Gódávári. A very large number of Koyas in the Bhadrachalam Range are employed in cutting timber in the Buster forests. But I am told that the villagers in the north-east corner of the range have neither work nor crops.

In the northern half of the centre portion of the range and in the Marrigudem Range from Thati lanka westwards, the people will, I am told, have exhausted their food supplies by the end of February. In the Rékapalli Range, except in the portions mentioned above, the same state of things exists.

If the *Ippa* flowers abundantly, it will furnish a large supply of food. But what the season will prove cannot be known till February and March.

Test works may, I think, be commenced in February on the roads from Dumagudem and Bhadrachalam meeting at Singavaram and thence *via* Cherupalli, Bandirevu, Yedugurallapalli, &c., to the Sabari; on the road from Waddigudiem to Lakkavaram and thence to Soccamamidi and Chinturu. Other works may be opened as occasion calls for.

RESOLUTION--dated 19th January 1897, No. 42.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of B.P., No. 18 of 1897.

2. As shown in the marginal table, the rainfall of the past season at Bhadrachalam

RAINFALL at Bhadrachalam.

Period.	Average.	1896-97.
	INCHES.	INCHES.
April	0.78	1.35
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June	6.19	3.30
July	10.53	7.30
August	10.35	10.00
September	7.80	3.10
October	2.88	..
November	1.11	0.20

was fair up to August, but, as over the rest of the northern districts, failed in September and since then there has been less than a quarter of an inch of rain, in November. The failure of the usual cholum crop, on which the people chiefly depend, has been very general and more complete in the interior than near the Gódávári, where a small yield has been obtained. Prices at Bhadrachalam are very high, rice being at 9.9 and cholum at 12.5 seers per rupee, and have been maintained at these rates for some time past. The

drought is stated to be preventing the hill people from obtaining their usual supplies of roots, and the Collector is of opinion that test-relief works should be opened. This has already been approved of in the Proceedings above quoted.

3. In his second letter read above, the Collector asks that Rs. 30,000 may be placed at his disposal for relief purposes; and proposes to carry on the relief works with the ordinary district staff. The Board recommends that the grant applied for may be made, but that of the sum Rs. 2,000 should be set aside for gratuitous relief at kitchens. It also considers that the Public Works Department should be called upon to supply the necessary professional staff for carrying out the works, payments being arranged for by the Revenue Department. The Public Works Department Officer deputed to the taluk should be directed to join at once, and having in view the remoteness of the locality should, the Board considers, be placed under the orders of the Special Assistant. He should be directed to prepare a reasonable code of tasks suitable to the work in hand and the people who come on the works, and to get it approved by the Special Assistant, who should, owing to the time a reference to the Collector under section 107 of the Code would require, be granted the powers of a Collector under that section. The Public Works Officer selected should place himself in communication with Mr. Ward and cordially invite his co-operation, for there is no one in the Gódávári Agency who has so much influence with, and so fully enjoys the confidence of, the Koyas as Mr. Ward.

4. No reports have been received regarding the condition of the other portions of the Agency Tracts alluded to in paragraph 4 of B.P., No. 386 of 1896, and it is presumed that the Collector feels no anxiety regarding them. In these circumstances, the Special Assistant should, for the present, remain in Bhadrachalam, in order that he may not, as he appears to be, be so dependent on the Tahsildar for information.

5. In future, the fortnightly narrative of the Special Assistant should be submitted punctually as prescribed in section 46 of the Code, with such remarks as the Collector may desire to offer.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ the Collector of Gódávári.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

C No 675

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 23rd.

Proceedings, 19th Jan. 1897, No. 42.

Bhadrachalam taluk.—Submitting, for information of Government, report on the state of the season in the — in Godavari and the measures of relief proposed.

Copy attached

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Read Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement No
n^o 42 Pres. dated 19th January 1897.

Read also the following
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
Revenue Settlement No n^o 484 M.S. dated
22nd January 1897, on the following telegram
from the Collector of Godavari dated
21st January 1897:—

My reference 4048, "instant,
with sanction 30,000 for relief Bhadrachalam"

Resolution:—

Submitted to Government in
Continuation of Board's Proceedings n^o
42 Pres. of 1897, with the request that
the necessary orders and allotment may
issue.

Read also the following Proceeding
of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement
No. n^o 561 M.S. dated 26th January
1897 on the following letter from the Collector
of Godavari, dated 21st January 1897,
reference on C No 4048/rev. of 1897

Submitting to Board's Proceeding

n^o 18. Revenue Settlement No. dated 18th January 1897. I have the honour to refer the Board to my reference n^o 3825/rev. and 4048/rev of 876, dated 5th and 11th Instant, and to report that I have had reports of the District Forest Officer and his Sub Divisional Officer, from time to time relating to the distress in the Bhadrachalam Taluk. The imperative necessity for the opening of relief works in that Taluk has already been urged in my last communication, and funds amounting to Rs 30,000 were applied for. I now solicit the orders of the Board by wire, placing the requisite funds at my disposal.

Resolution. Submitted for the early orders of Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings Pres. n^o 42 dated 19th and Miscellaneous n^o ~~848~~ 484 dated 22nd January.

2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector:-

"Open relief work Bhadrachalam in anticipation of allotment of funds."

Order thereon n^o 74 Pres. dated 5th Feb 1897.

Orders will issue in the Financial Department for placing Rs 30,000 at the disposal of the Public Works

department for relief works in the Bhadrachalam Taluk.

2. All the relief works in the Taluk will be placed under the Control of the Public Works Department.

3. The Public Works Department will be requested to depute an officer at once to the Taluk.

4. It is not clear whether the roads referred to in the Special Assistant letter dated 5th January 1897 are included in the programme of roads to be constructed in the Godavari Agency recently submitted by the Agent to the Judicial Department. Some deviation from that programme may be necessary. But the Agent should adhere to it as far as possible. Otherwise a number of roads may be made, which will not work in with the general scheme for opening up the Agency and which it will be impossible to maintain.

5. The Special Assistant Collector will be authorised to exercise the powers of a Collector under Section 107 of the Revenue Code.

(True extract)

Donel Davidson

8231
Under Secy to Govt

To, The Board (Sd)

Financial & P. & W. Dept.

Financial (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 454

From

Revenue
The Financial Dep^t

No. 74 Pers.

Dated 5th Feb. 1897

Received 10. 2. 97

Registered 11- 2- 97

Enclosures 1

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SUBJECT.

Stating that orders will issue
in the Fin^t Dep^t for placing Rs 30,000
at the disposal of the P. W. D for relief
works in the Bhadrachalam Taluqa
various districts and placing all relief works
in the Taluqa under the control of the P. W. D.

Order N^o 139 of 11-2-97.

The Assistant is authorized
to place a sum of Rs
30,000 at the disposal
of the Public Works Dep^t
from savings under 45-
Grant Works.

Rev. Dep^t 6

P.W. D. 10

Asst. Secy. 4

Working Table from 18/2/97

197.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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