

Financial (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 310

Dated 5-4-97

INDEXED.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording proceedings Revenue Deptt sanctioning the purchase of 10 weighing machines at a cost of Rs. 60 each for testing the physical condition of relief workers.

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# Financial (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1080

Be  
2.4.97

From The Revenue Department.

Order No. 31095-4-97

Recorded  
2.4.97

No. 1652

Dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 1897.

Received 31 3 97

Registered 1-4-97

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

## SUBJECT.

Sanctioning with remarks  
the purchase of 10 weighing machines  
at a cost of Rs 60 each for  
testing the physical constitution  
of relief workers.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

## Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Proceedings, 10th March 1897, No. 212.

MARCH.

Relief workers.—Requesting the sanction of Government, with remarks, for the purchase of weighing machines for testing the physical condition of —.

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

READ—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 18th February 1897, Ref. on C. No. 712 and reference thereon, dated 1st March 1897:—

The Superintending Engineer, III Circle, suggests that, in order to ascertain the adequacy of the tasks prescribed at relief works and also the physical condition of the relief-workers, it is necessary that hospital assistants should visit every work once a fortnight with a weighing machine and weigh selected relief-workers. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer has accordingly applied for the supply of weighing machines for the purpose. I have the honour to enclose copies of the Superintending Engineer's and the District Medical Officer's letters on the subject for the Board's perusal, and to inquire whether it is the intention of Government that such charge should be incurred, and whether weighing machines may be indented for and supplied to each relief work.

From the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to Collectors of all districts, dated 4th February 1897, No. 3706.

I have the honour to inform you that the tasks exacted in the different divisions of the circle for the same, or approximately the same, classes of famine-relief work vary very much and it is impossible for me or my officers to say whether the task is correct, or too light on some works and too heavy on others unless I have some information as to the physical condition of the relief-workers.

2. Apart from this question of task, it is very important that the relief-workers should not be allowed to deteriorate, and as the best means of checking both task and condition I would suggest that apothecaries or hospital assistants should visit every work once a fortnight with a weighing machine, and weigh selected relief-workers, especially those who show signs of distress.

3. I know of no method of ascertaining physical condition at once so simple and so certain and I am sure from what I have seen on the relief works in Adoni taluk that some such regular and systematic check is urgently required.

From Surgeon-Major H. M. HAKIM, District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Anantapur, to the Collector of Anantapur, dated 16th February 1897, No. 157.

With reference to your foot-note No. 722, dated 9th instant, to a copy of letter, No. 3706, dated 4th idem, from the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, Bellary, I have the honour to request you will be so good as to instruct the Deputy Collector, Gooty, to supply a weighing machine for each relief work in order to weigh the relief-workers as suggested by the Superintending Engineer in the letter above referred to.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 23rd February 1897, Mis. No. 1398:—

Read—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 19th February 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 61-Tour:—

I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter from the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, and to state that I have adopted, after consultation with the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, his suggestion as to testing the condition of relief-workers by weighing.

2. I have directed that the weighing should take place at or about the same hour each day, preferably before work begins.

Resolution—dated 23rd February 1897, Mis. No. 1398.

Recorded pending receipt of reply to reference on letter from the Collector of Anantapur, No. 712, dated 18th February 1897.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,  
Secretary.

READ—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 5th March 1897, Ref. on Cur. No. 61-Tour:—

In continuation of my letter Ref. No. 61-Tour, dated 19th February 1897, I have the honour to request that the Board will be pleased to sanction the purchase of Fairshank's weighing machine for the purpose of testing the condition of the coolies by weighing.

2. Six machines are now required.

3. A copy of the letter from the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, to Superintending Engineer regarding the cost of the machines is enclosed. I think the machine priced Rs. 60 will be sufficient for the purpose.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. A. MOSS, Esq., General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, Bellary, dated 20th February 1897, No. 395.

With reference to your telegram dated 18th instant, I have the honour to inform you that weighing machines up to 150 lb. are not in stock, but I can supply you with machines one of each to weigh 5, 10 and 20 cwts. priced Rs. 106-4-8, Rs. 155-4-9 and Rs. 225-3-3, respectively.

The following machines are available for sale in the local market:—

|                              |                                           | RS.      |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Fairshank's weighing machine | up to 5 cwts. 27" x 17"—two available     | 165 each |
| Do.                          | small to weigh 2 cwts. 19" x 13½"         | 75       |
| Do.                          | —one is available                         | ...      |
| Do.                          | 10½" x 14"—one available to weigh 200 lb. | 60       |

READ—the following letter from W. B. DEWINTON, Esq., Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 8th March 1897, No. 4361:—

In reply to Ref. on G.R. No. 1400 of 1897, dated 25th February 1897, I have the honour to state that I think it may be taken for granted that, if relief-workers do not lose weight appreciably while on our works, the wage is sufficient and the task not too severe, and it would be of great service to us to have some trustworthy evidence of the kind for future guidance. I use the word "appreciably" because hard work would, doubtless, make them lose weight to some extent, while overwork would make them lose it to a great extent.

2. My reason for making this proposal is that tasks are being enforced more vigorously, and workers are more frequently paid the minimum wage, in the Kurnool

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGR.), 10TH MAR. 1897, No. 212.

and Cuddapah districts than in the Bellary district, and I think it would be of great assistance to us to discover what the comparative effect on the physical condition of the coolies is.

3. But I fear universal weighments are impracticable owing to the trouble and expense involved, and I, therefore, now suggest that three machines be purchased for Bellary district, two for Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah, respectively, and that they be placed on selected works and the results carefully recorded. Suitable machines can be purchased in Madras through the Public Works Stores for Rs. 60 apiece. So the cost would not be heavy.

4. Probably, it would suffice to select 20 men, 20 women and 20 children on each work, and as numbers are now increasing daily, there would be no difficulty in weighing fresh arrivals, so that the results of task and wage on their physical condition could be gauged from the outset. I would take those engaged on metal collection and breaking, that being the commonest description of work.

5. My own opinion, from inspection of relief-workers in Bellary district, is that they improve in appearance when they have been on the work a month. I am just starting on a tour of inspection of relief works in Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool and hope to get further evidence of the kind. But, of course, the eye is a very untrustworthy guide, and hence I want to introduce the weighing machine.

Reference on the above, dated 1st March 1897.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer for favour of any suggestions he may have to make as to the manner in which his proposal may be made practicable. A regular system of weighing relief-workers would, no doubt, be an admirable test of the adequacy of the wages paid, but it is not clear to the Board how far it would serve as a test of the suitability of the tasks. A comparison of weighments may show whether the workers have improved or deteriorated, but their condition at the time of receipt on work must be judged by the civil officer and the officer in charge.

2. It is manifestly impossible to furnish an unlimited number of scales and weights for the different works, unless the Public Works Department has them in store.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,  
Secretary.

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, with copy of an enclosure.

RESOLUTION—dated 10th March 1897, No. 212.

The proposals of the Superintending Engineer commend themselves to the Board, and the sanction of Government will be sought for the purchase of ten weighing machines at a cost of Rs. 60 each, for issue to selected works.

2. The maintenance of the records should, where possible, be entrusted to medical subordinates attached to works, and the District Medical Officers should issue instructions to ensure that the record will be intelligently made and kept.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,  
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collectors of affected districts.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

CURRENT No. 1080  
Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Indian Government.

Copy attached. Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture) dated 10th March 1897, No. 313 Press.

Order thereon, No. 1653 H.S. d/26th March 1897.

The purchase of ten weighing machines at a cost of Rs. 60 each is sanctioned.

3. The Government however, notes that in his letter of the 20th February the Superintendent, Public Works Stores says that only one such machine is available in the local market.

3. Government would however observe that if it is intended to base theories or conclusions on the weight of relief workers, the weighing should be carried out with accuracy and checked with care.

(True Extract)

*[Signature]*

Ag: Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, &c)  
To the Financial Deptt.  
To the Accountant General.

J/K.S.

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AGAIN G.O. No.  
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DATED

EMENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. . A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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