

Marine (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 292 *Mar*

DATED *24. March 1897*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lamine Batta: Pro: Revenue Dept directing the  
grant of - to Govt servants in Canton in ac-  
cordance with the provisions of art 72 of the  
Civil Account Code Vol I Part I and addressing  
the Govt of India with a view to the present rule  
which gives rise to anomalous results being  
allowed to count to the P.R. officer

# BACK PAPERS.

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*Marine*  
**Revenue**

(1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 385

From the Rev. Dept.

Order No 292 dated 24.3.97  
Communicated  
to the Presidency Post office  
Circular

No. 135

Dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 97

Received 15.3.97

Registered 15.3.97

Enclosures one

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SUBJECT.

Directing the grant of famine  
batta to Govt. servants in Ganjam  
in accordance with the provisions of  
Art 72 of the Civil Account Code  
Vol I, Part I, and addressing the  
Govt. of India with a view to the  
present rule which gives rise to  
anomalous results being altered

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BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 5TH FEB. 1897, No. 101.

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

READ—the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjām, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 20th December 1896, Dis. No. 1764-Acc. :—

In G.O., No. 638, Revenue, dated 25th July 1889, famine batta was allowed to certain Government servants in this district, the reason for the concession being that the price of rice was then higher than 12 seers to the rupee, the scarcity rate then being 11.2. The average price of rice for November 1896 throughout the district was 10.4 seers to the rupee and the prices for the weeks ending 5th, 12th and 19th instant have been 10.4, 10.4 and 10.5, respectively, and our present scarcity rate is 10.2 seers to the rupee.

2. There does not seem to be any prospect of a material fall of the price. I would therefore recommend that the concession allowed in the Government Order above quoted be again allowed on the same scale and subject to the same conditions. I may mention that in the places where most of the Government servants in question draw and spend their pay, the price of rice has been considerably above the district average.

RESOLUTION—dated 5th February 1897, No. 101.

Submitted to Government for orders with reference to article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Fifth Edition, Volume I, Part I. In G.O., No. 597, Revenue, dated 16th July 1889, rice was declared to be the "common staple food" of the people of the Ganjām district, with reference to the price of which compensation for dearness

|              | Seers<br>per rupee. |
|--------------|---------------------|
| October 1896 | 12.4                |
| November "   | 10.4                |
| December "   | 10.3                |
| January 1897 | 10.2 *              |

\* Approximate.

of provisions was to be granted to the Government servants employed in the district. The price of rice ruling in the district since October last has been as noted on the margin and there is no likelihood of the prices falling for some months to come.

2. In this connection, the Board would invite attention to the remarks made in its Proceedings, No. 576, dated 15th August 1892, which to some extent apply this year also, although the general scarcity and pressure in Ganjām is now probably, so far as prices are concerned, as great as they were in 1889.

3. In these circumstances, Government servants of the classes referred to in article 72 of the Civil Account Code are entitled to the concession granted therein, and it should be granted to them, as it has, it is believed, already been granted in Bengal.

4. The Board would, however, take this opportunity of inviting the attention of Government to the anomalous results which follow the application of the rule in question. In Ganjām, a rise of 42 per cent. over the normal price of the common staple food-grain—rice—adopted for that district entitles Government servants to famine batta whilst in the adjoining district of Vizagapatam, it would require a rise of 133 per cent. in the price of ragi—the staple adopted for that district—before the

not used in the margin 24/6

not used in the margin 24/6

concession may be granted, while in the Deccan districts, no claim to such concession will be established until the prices of the staple for these districts—cholan—is 150 per cent. dearer than usual, and by the application of the Government of India rule, famine batta will be granted in Ganjam some months at least before any relief works are opened there, whereas in Bellary, where there are already over 20,000 persons in receipt of State relief, the time may never come this year for the application of the concession. This does not appear to the Board to be in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India in 1889—*vide* G.O., No. 597, Revenue, dated 16th July 1889.

5. In view of these considerations, the Board considers that it would be a far better gauge of general scarcity and pressure to adopt definite percentage increases over normal prices rather than the present arbitrary fixed price for all grains.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,  
Secretary.

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

1897.

## Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records  
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 12th.

Proceedings, 5th Feb. 1897, No. 101.

Famine batta.—Submitting, for orders of Government, letter from the Collector of Ganjam recommending the grant of — to Government servants in his district.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read

† Copy attached.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,  
Rev. Sett. Co., No. 101 of 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1897.

Order thereon, No. 135 of 4<sup>th</sup> March 1897 (Press).

The Government accepts the recommendation in para 3 of the Proceedings read above, and directs that as a temporary measure and until further orders all servants of Government on Civil Establishments in the district of Ganjam whose pay does not exceed Rs. 16/- per mensem or in the case of officials required to keep a horse, Rs 25 per mensem shall receive an extra allowance of Re. 1 per mensem, provided that the aggregate monthly pay and allowances shall in no case be less than Rs. 6.

2. As pointed out in para 4, the present rule which takes a fixed price of grain as indicative of distress gives rise to anomalous results, and the Government agrees with the Board in thinking that definite percentage increases over normal prices would be a far better gauge of general scarcity and pressure.

3. Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

(True Extract)

as: Secretary to Govt.

To the Board of Rev., R. S.

- " other Heads of Depts. under the Rev. Secty.
- " Financial Dept., with copy of letter.
- " Other Depts. of the Secretariat.
- " Accountant General.

2/1/97.

61/385/97

Gobt. of {189 } Madras.  
REVENUE.

To

Dated

Recd.

Encl

Mis. G.O.,  
R.

1897, No.

SUBJECT.

MARCH

1897.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Letter, No. 136, 4th March 1897.

MARCH.

Pointing out the anomalous results that arise from the present rule regarding the grant of famine batta, and suggesting that definite percentage increases over normal prices may be taken as a fairer and a surer gauge of the scarcity and pressure which will warrant the grant of the batta.

OOTY RECORD

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

G. STOKES, Esq., I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE,

Dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1897.

SIR,

I am directed to forward copy of the marginally-noted Proceedings of this Government in which His Excellency the Governor in Council has sanctioned the grant of famine batta to Government servants in Ganjám in accordance with the provisions of article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Part I., Volume I., and to invite your attention to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Board's Proceedings printed therein, pointing out that the adoption of a fixed price for all grains and all districts alike as indicative of general scarcity and distress, gives rise to anomalous results, and suggesting a modification of the present rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions.

Miscellaneous.

No. 135, dated 4th March 1897.

2. The Government of India has directed that the grain to be adopted for regulating the grant of compensation should be the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people, that is, the common staple food of the people of the district (*vide* paragraph 9 of the Government of India Resolution, No. 1648, dated 28th March 1888, Finance and Commerce), and it has been explained in Mr. Sinkinson's letter No. 3040, dated 18th June 1889, that the basis of this rule is that "if in any district the common food of the people has risen in price beyond a certain point the fact indicates a general scarcity and pressure in the district causing such distress to Government servants there employed as to warrant an increase to their pay sufficient to mitigate the hardship caused by high prices." The staple-grains adopted by this Government for the different districts in accordance with the above resolution of 1888, are given in the annexed statement from which it will be seen that the normal prices of these grains as determined from the averages of ordinary years vary widely, from 13.4 seers per rupee in Malabar to 32 seers in North Arcot. It will be obvious from an examination of these normal prices (column 3 of the statement) that the fact that the price of the staple adopted has risen to 12 seers per rupee in any district does not necessarily show that there is scarcity or pressure in the district, and that where it does indicate distress, the limiting price is reached at different stages of distress in different districts. Thus in Malabar and South Canara a small rise in prices over the normal entitles Government employes therein to famine batta, and in the districts of Ganjám, Nilgiris and Tinnevely, the grant of such batta is permissible long before scarcity rates are reached. On the other hand in North Arcot, Salem and the Deccan districts no compensation will be payable till prices exceed scarcity rates considerably and till

probably very severe distress has set in. The Government has till now avoided inequalities in the working of the rules by the exercise of the discretion vested in it by article 72 of the Civil Account Code, but this discretion only enables it to withhold compensation where it is permissible under the rules, and not to grant it in cases where there is undoubted distress though the staple-grain has not risen in price above 12 seers per rupee.

3. Second sort rice is the staple-grain adopted for Ganjám, and as the price of this grain has been for months past higher than 12 seers per rupee, and has now risen beyond the scarcity rate of 10.2 seers, orders have been issued directing the grant of famine batta to Government employes in the district. As yet, however, only test-works have been opened in the district on which about 1,629 persons are employed, and the distress, though undoubted, is not so severe as in the Deccan districts where regular relief-works have been opened in various parts and where over 50,000 persons are in receipt of State relief. Government servants in these districts in receipt of small salaries are certainly in greater need of help from Government than those in Ganjám, but as the staple-grain of these districts, viz., choolam, is still cheaper than 12 seers per rupee they are not entitled to any concession under the rules. This is an undoubted inequality in the working of the rules which the local Government cannot rectify.

| Months.                                 | Seers per Re. |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| November ... ..                         | 10.4          |
| December ... ..                         | 10.3          |
| January ... ..                          | 10.2          |
| February (average of the first 3 weeks) | 10.0          |

Week ending 20th February 1897.

| Districts.       | Seers per Re. |
|------------------|---------------|
| Kurnool ... ..   | 14.2          |
| Bellary ... ..   | 13.1          |
| Anantapur ... .. | 13.7          |
| Cuddapah ... ..  | 14.5          |

4. The object of the Government of India in framing the rules being to mitigate the hardship caused to its employes by high prices in times of general scarcity and pressure, it appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council for the reasons set forth above, that definite percentage increases over normal prices are a fairer and surer gauge of such scarcity and pressure than a fixed price for all grains and places alike. The warning and scarcity rates adopted for the various districts are based on the principle of percentage increases, and I am to suggest that the same principle may also be adopted in article 72 of the Civil Account Code.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. STOKES,

Ag. Secretary to Government

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

[Appendix.

## APPENDIX.

| Districts.           | Grain.          | Normal price. | Scarcity rates. | Percentage rise above normal prices when compensation will be allowable. | Percentage rise above scarcity rates before compensation may be allowed. |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ganjám .. .. .       | Rice, 2nd sort. | 17.0          | 10.2            | 41.7                                                                     | ..                                                                       |
| South Canara .. .. . |                 | 14.0          | 8.4             | 16.7                                                                     | ..                                                                       |
| Malabar .. .. .      |                 | 13.4          | 8.0             | 11.7                                                                     | ..                                                                       |
| Vizagapatam .. .. .  |                 | 28.0          | 14.0            | 133.3                                                                    | 16.7                                                                     |
| Górávari .. .. .     | Ragi.           | 28.0          | 14.0            | 133.3                                                                    | 16.7                                                                     |
| Madras .. .. .       |                 | 24.0          | 12.0            | 100.0                                                                    | 0.0                                                                      |
| Chingleput .. .. .   |                 | 24.0          | 12.0            | 100.0                                                                    | 0.0                                                                      |
| North Arcot .. .. .  |                 | 32.0          | 16.0            | 166.7                                                                    | 33.3                                                                     |
| Tanjore .. .. .      |                 | 28.0          | 14.0            | 133.3                                                                    | 16.7                                                                     |
| Nilgiris .. .. .     |                 | 21.0          | 10.5            | 75.0                                                                     | ..                                                                       |
| Salem .. .. .        |                 | 31.0          | 15.5            | 158.3                                                                    | 29.2                                                                     |
| Kistna .. .. .       |                 | 26.0          | 13.0            | 116.7                                                                    | 8.3                                                                      |
| Nellore .. .. .      | Cholam.         | 26.0          | 13.0            | 116.7                                                                    | 8.3                                                                      |
| Cuddapah .. .. .     |                 | 30.0          | 15.0            | 150.0                                                                    | 25.0                                                                     |
| Anantapur .. .. .    |                 | 30.0          | 15.0            | 150.0                                                                    | 25.0                                                                     |
| Bellary .. .. .      |                 | 30.0          | 15.0            | 150.0                                                                    | 25.0                                                                     |
| Kurnool .. .. .      |                 | 30.0          | 15.0            | 150.0                                                                    | 25.0                                                                     |
| Trichinopoly .. .. . |                 | 24.0          | 12.0            | 100.0                                                                    | 0.0                                                                      |
| Madura .. .. .       |                 | 24.0          | 12.0            | 100.0                                                                    | 0.0                                                                      |
| Tinnevely .. .. .    |                 | 23.0          | 11.5            | 91.7                                                                     | ..                                                                       |
| South Arcot .. .. .  | Cumbu.          | 26.0          | 13.0            | 116.7                                                                    | 8.3                                                                      |
| Coimbatore .. .. .   |                 | 26.0          | 13.0            | 116.7                                                                    | 8.3                                                                      |