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(3) ஆதரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10/8 ✓

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	<u>725</u>	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	<u>9-3-1885</u>	<u>198</u>

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

4 Sheets

One

22ND FEBRUARY 1889, No. 119, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

725
1

READ—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp Pudemari, 8th February 1889, No. 15 :—

Government Order of the 16th January 1889, No. 22, Revenue, declining to sanction relief works in the Mohana division of the maliahs having reached me at Darangabad on the 30th January, and considering the matter to be one of grave importance and that my Senior Assistant Collector Mr. Bell was likely to have erred in understanding rather than in exaggerating the state of affairs, I resolved, instead of depending as I had originally intended *via* Kuttingia to Suradā, to continue my tour to Mohana and judge for myself whether relief was actually required or not.

2. The result has already been communicated to Government by my telegram despatched from Mohana on the 6th instant.

3. I left Daringabadi on the 31st ultimo for Chodakia. Neither here nor at the former place was there any complaint as to the failure of crops. The Daringabadi police had received their supplies of rice for the year at the rate of 8 tooms 24 seers for the rupee, and the chiefs readily agreed to supply any further quantity that might be required at the rate of 18 seers the rupee. The Comaty who came up from the low country for the purpose of supplying the camp was charging a rupee for 15 seers.

4. At Baminigam, the next stage, things were very different. Here it was stated the paddy crops had failed very extensively, and there was a difficulty about supplies for our camp and elephants. The Godapur Tatrajab, who attended Bhet, declared, however, that throughout his muttah, with the exception of one or two villages, there had been good crops. The Kuttingia chieftain and the Paniganda Patro on the other hand declared that in their muttahs the wet crops had entirely failed and that the people were already experiencing great difficulty in obtaining food.

5. From Baminigam southwards there has been a complete failure of the rice crop. At Panigonda the tank contained a little water, and there was also a small spring. The people, however, were hopeful that rain would fall shortly and that with a good mohwa and mango season they would escape a repetition of 1866, when, as the Patro declared, over one hundred perished in that village alone.

6. At Damodava the condition of affairs was much worse; here the rice crop failed entirely, and no water could be had. The cattle looked very wretched and emaciated. In consequence of want of water, we could not camp here, though it is the usual camping place and has a rest shed; we accordingly went on to Jhiliki; here there was a small tank with some muddy water in it and a spring at some distance away. As at previous places, I noticed that the cattle were in a very emaciated condition. They were further suffering from cow-pox. At Jhiliki we first saw cases of emaciation from want of food. The people are now living upon the pith of the solapa or sago palm which they grind into flour and make a kind of paste of. This food is said to sustain life but to be wanting in nutritive qualities, and, judging from the number of anæmic looking people I saw, this appears to be very probable. It is said to disagree altogether with young children.

7. There was no improvement between this and Mohana, our next station. At the large village of Oraba, water was obtained by making pits in the river-bed, and so also at Mohana; at Kōnda, Oraba and Karchalodi villages we pass *en route* there was said to be no water at all.

19

8. At Mohana I inspected a number of people and selected such as I considered absolutely in need of immediate relief, numbering about 20, and directed the Sub-Magistrate Lal Beg, who met me there, to distribute money doles to them.

9. I have interviewed the Molikos of different muttals and was assured by one and all that their only source of food now was the solapa tree. They looked upon the loss of their cattle as a certainty, and declared solemnly enough that unless good rain fell soon and there were good mohwa and mango crops, of which at present they saw no prospect, they must inevitably perish also. The expression used, as interpreted to me, was, in that case God will have taken us.

10. The Sub-Magistrate, who was an experienced maliah officer, assured me that the state of affairs was equally bad at Chandiput and Chandragiri and other places in the division, and leaving my Special Assistant Mr. Horne to inspect these places, I came on to Luhagudi and down the Taptapani ghât, reaching Pudamari this morning and receiving the Government telegram sanctioning the sinking of six wells and the commencement of the Taptapani ghât if necessary.

11. I had, in anticipation of Government sanction, and seeing the urgent necessity therefor, sanctioned the sinking of eight wells at the undermentioned places: (1) Chandragiri, (2) Chendiput and (3) Birkot in the Chinna Kimedi; (4) Damadua, (5) Korchobadi and (6) Kariguda in the Bodagoda; and (7) Jalursing and (8) Tambalpur in the Pedda Kimedi maliahs, and trust Government will approve of my action. The Sub-Magistrate believes that he can sink the wells at an average cost of Rs. 50, which is much less than the amount asked for in my letter of the 15th December, but it is not improbable that it will shortly be necessary to sink wells at other places also.

12. I regret to say that so far no rain has fallen in the portion of the maliahs. It is usual to have showers at this season, and it is not yet too late for them. At Udayagiri, in the Goomsur maliahs, they had a shower of 25 cents.

13. From Baminigam southwards to Chandragiri, a distance of forty miles, food grains are not easily procurable for money. The police at Mohana station have been getting up rice from Bodagoda at the rate of 9 seers for the rupee, good rice at 7½ seers the rupee; ragi was nominally quoted at 18 seers, that is, the price fixed some time ago, but was not to be had at all.

14. I have written to the Superintendent of Police to send up supplies of rice sufficient for three months for the Mohana station police. At other stations the police have already obtained their supplies for the year, and it will not be necessary therefore to supply rice to them.

15. The scarcity of water is, I consider, the most alarming feature, as, should the season continue adverse, nearly all the cattle will perish.

16. I am assured on all sides that there are no stocks of grain in the country, and the condition of the people, as seen by me, leaves no room to doubt that this is correct. There are no merchants or Comaties resident in the hills, and those from the plains will not send up supplies, so that it will devolve upon Government to do so. At present I am distributing money doles, as I am unable to purchase grain for distribution. I consider it absolutely necessary for Government to step in and authorize me to purchase grain in the local markets and forward it for distribution to the starving people and for payment as wages to the coolies employed on the Taptapani ghât roads.

17. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Government Order, I beg to state that I had ascertained from Mr. Wybrow that he was in want of tools, and have since learnt from the District Engineer that he has none.

18. With reference to paragraph 4, I have already reported that Khonds will in no case resort to the low country for work, and in the opinion of the Sub-Magistrate rather die at home. The Khonds will be the last to suffer. They appear capable of sustaining themselves to a great extent by the toddy of the solapa tree, wild roots and the results of the chase. It is otherwise with the Panos and Uriyas who form a large proportion of the population, and it is amongst these, with one or two exceptional Khonds, that I noticed cases of emaciation.

19. The tract of country to which my report relates is, I am glad to say, very limited roughly speaking about 40 miles long by 10 broad and is very sparsely populated, so that the numbers for whom work will have to be found and who will have to be gratuitously fed cannot be very great.

20. I am, as ordered by Government, proceeding to head-quarters, but venture respectfully to suggest that at a time like this I should probably be of much more use moving about my district and seeing things for myself than I can be remaining at head-quarters.

ORDER—dated 22nd February 1889, No. 119, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Collector has already been authorized by the telegram of the 6th instant to sink the six wells recommended by Mr. Bell and to commence the Taptapani ghât road. He has also been permitted by G.O., dated 11th February, No. 869, to purchase grain for distribution to the starving people in the maliahs and for payment of wages to the coolies employed in the ghât road. Authority is now given to him to sanction the sinking of as many wells as he may deem necessary to prevent a water famine in the maliahs. If water cannot be found in any locality, there is no alternative but for the people to migrate to where it is procurable.

2. Orders have already been issued in the Department of Public Works for providing a supply of tools (G.O., dated 21st January 1889, No. 161 W).

3. Mr. Horsfall was directed to return to head-quarters because it was evident, from the unsatisfactory telegrams sent to Government, that there was a want of organization. As soon as he has put matters straight, he can leave his head-quarters in charge of Mr. Carr and go wherever he considers his presence most required.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
" the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, and Director of the Department
of Land Records and Agriculture.

Copy to the Public Works Department.

" " Judicial Department.

" " Accountant-General.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

100 Copies.

Govt. of 1889 Madras.
REVENUE.

B-42725 May 9-3-89
Communicated to
the Suply Engineer
in continuation
of G.O. No. 161 Wd/2/89
January 1889

sd/ A.P.M.
6

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd February 1889, No. 119.

B-42725 May 9-3-89

FEBRUARY.

Ganjam Maliahs.

Passing orders on the Collector's report on the condition of the Mohana division of the —.

sd/ I. G. S. S.

Ch. Engr. for S. S.

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B. No. 725 W. of 9-3-89

Communicated to

the Suptg Engineer I

Circle in continuation of

G.O. No. 161 W. of 21st

January 1889

1st of A. R. E.

W.

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Encl.

G.O., 22nd February 1889, No. 119.

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