Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd September 1891, No. 897.

SEPTEMBER.

Season, Salem.

Directing that the Commissioner of Settlement, &c., should visit the district and consult with the Collector at once as to whether any measures for the relief of distress can be taken, and stating that the Government will be prepared to sanction the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and of Special Sub-Magistrate should necessity arise.

9/3/12

Bolopies

No 2630 W & 30.9.91.

Communicated to the Supply Sec^y IV Circle and to the Chief Sec^y for Rev^e, with reference to Para 37 of the Collr's letter.

As regards para 46, the requisite inquiries have, it is observed, already been set on foot by the Chief Sec^y Mo. Dept.

(sd) J. P.

W

To Rev. S. S. IV Circle
- C. S. for I.
- Rev. Dept.

Rain-registering stations.	AVERAGE RAINFALL OF THE SIX YEARS ENDING 1875–76.		AVERAGE OF 10 YEARS ENDING 1887-88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Hosúr Taluk.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Hosúr	Stationwar particulars not available.	do.	20·64	13·58	17·20	11·88	21·21	14·65	20·86	12·06
Denkanikóta			16·50	13 27	10·95	12·28	20·90	11·50	25·57	19·28
			18·57	13·42	14·07	12·08	21·05	13·07	23·21	15·67
Krishnagiri Taluk.										
Krishnagiri			18·41	13·31	17 63	11·40	23·40	13·28	17·23	19·81
Tirupatúr Taluk.										
Tirupatúr		Do.	21·97	13·68	22·80	13·20	20·41	10·73	22·84	7·76
Vániyambádi			18·89	13 87	17·01	13 13	24·33	16·78	22·34	8·33
			20·43	13·77	19·90	13·16	22·37	13·75	22·59	8·04
Uttankarai Taluk.										
Uttankarai			17·90	13·74	21·38	16·58	20·60	7·28	22·03	6·60
Harur			15·81	14·72	21·89	15·15	15·96	10·10	17·65	12·62
			16·85	14·23	21·63	15·86	18·28	8·69	19·84	9·62
Shevaroy Hills			42·38	24·98	44 70	24·50	60·53	14·55	32·20	20·38
District Average ..	23·04	12·26	20·06	14·09	18·35	11·62	25·82	10·63	18·98	12·33

35·30 average for 6 years ending 1876.
34·15 do. for 10 do. do. 1888.
29·97 do. of 1888–89.
36·45 do. of 1889–90.
31·31 do. of 1890–91.

Taking the district as a whole it will be seen that the rainfall as a whole has been deficient except in one year, when there was a slight excess. In that one year it will be seen that while there was an excess under the south-west monsoon, there was a deficiency under the north-east. In that year, also, the distribution of the rain was not normal. Looking into the details of the statement, it will be seen that the rainfall has been deficient in Salem division, of the Salem taluk, in all monsoons but one—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. In Rasipur, the south-west monsoon has been normal in all 3 years, while the north-east has failed. Omalúr has had one good season with one failure of the south-west monsoon, and but a slight deficiency in the north-east. Atúr has had one failure of the north-east monsoon and not altogether bad seasons otherwise. Námakal has had one good south-west monsoon and one north-east monsoon, the last good, but the rest have been failures. Paramathi has had but two failures of the south-west monsoon. In Hosúr, both divisions, the seasons have been practically normal, while the same is true of Krishnagiri. In Tirupatúr division the south-west monsoons have practically not failed at all, while the last two north-east monsoons have been failu es. In Vániyambádi the season has been the same, except that only one north-east monsoon has failed. In the Uttankarai division, the south-west monsoon has not failed, but the two last north-east monsoons have been failures. In the Harur division, however, the seasons have been normal. The above remarks may be summarized in the annexed statement where—

F stands for favorable season, or nearly up to, or above, the average; and

U stands for unfavorable, or considerably below the average.

Rain-registering stations.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.		Total Favorable.	Total Unfavorable.
	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.		
Salem	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Rasipur	F	U U	F	U	F	U	3	3
Omalúr	F	U	F	F	F	F	5	1
Atúr	F	F U	F	U	F	F	5	1
Námakal	U	U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Paramathi	U	U F	F	F	U	F	4	2
Tiruchengód	U	U U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Sankaridrug	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Dharmapuri	F	U U	F	U	U	F	3	3
Pennagaram	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Hosúr	U	U U	F	F	F	F	4	2
Denkanikota	U	U U	F	U	F	F	3	3
Krishnagiri	U	U	F	F	F	F	4	2
Tirupatúr	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Vániyambádi	F	F	F	F	F	U	5	1
Uttankarai	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Harur	F	F	F	U	F	F	5	1
Shevaroys	F	F	F	U	U	U	3	3

From this we learn that the Salem division of the Salem taluk, the Sankari division of Tiruchengód, and the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri have had only one normal monsoon in the last six—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. The Námakal division of Námakal, the Tiruchengód division of Tiruchengód have had only two normal monsoons in the last six, but those have been the south-west of 1889-90 and the north-east of 1890–91. Rasipur, Denkanikóta, Dharmapuri and Shevaroys have had three normal and three unfavorable monsoons; and in the rest of the district there has been a preponderance of normal.

3. *Monsoons.*—The following table shows the actual deficiency in the rainfall :—

Taluks.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).
Salem	— 2·60	— 3·77	+ 9·22	— 2·94	— 1·04	— 3·92
Atúr	— 0·47	— 0·85	+ 3·93	— 6·35	+ 2·32	— 1·92
Námakal	— 3·07	— 3·90	+ 9·90	— 3·07	— 5·20	+ 2·72
Tiruchengód	— 5·44	— 5·83	+ 5·23	— 4·21	— 5·34	— 2·91
Dharmapuri	— 3·21	— 4·99	+ 3·73	— 5·09	— 5·41	— 1·75
Hosúr	— 4·50	— 1·34	+ 2·48	— 0·35	+ 4·64	+ 2·25
Krishnagiri	— 0·78	— 1·91	+ 4·99	— 0·03	— 1·18	+ 6·50
Tirupatúr	— 0·53	— 0·61	+ 1·94	— 0·02	+ 2·16	— 5·73
Uttankarai	+ 4·78	+ 1·64	+ 1·43	— 5·54	+ 2·99	— 4·61
Shevaroy Hills	+ 1·32	— 0·48	+ 18·15	— 10·43	— 10·18	— 4·60
Total Average ..	— 1·71	— 2·47	+ 5·76	— 3·46	— 1·08	— 1·76

4. The following statement shows the monthly rainfall in each taluk and the rainfall up to date.

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Salem ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·90	4·30	2·46	2·93	6·78	4·17	6·80	4·07	1·28	·29	·07	·58	34·66
	1888–89 ..	·47	2·80	3·64	3·05	3·35	5·64	3·38	4·97	·61	·07	..	·25	28·28
	1889–90 ..	2·78	3·19	4·22	7·64	4·99	7·96	6·22	1·06	1·50	·06	..	1·39	40·93
	1890–91 ..	1·16	3·09	4·12	4·48	4·95	2·72	3·09	4·26	·23	·09	·92	·56	29·70
	1891–92 ..	1·61	·68	2·73	·97	·96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·11	4·42	1·64	3·59	6·40	3·62	6·99	6·41	1·53	·35	·01	·78	36·92
	1888–89 ..	..	1·35	2·45	1·50	3·05	12·00	4·75	6·50	1·00	..	..	3·00	35·60
	1889–90 ..	2·75	3·60	1·40	3·75	2·15	11·10	4·55	·60	2·35	·55	..	1·80	34·60
	1890–91 ..	0·15	2·50	5·58	2·45	6·83	4·83	4·20	5·80	..	..	1·65	2·53	37·32
	1891–92 ..	·80	1·45	1·00	1·50	1·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Námakal ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	0·99	3·97	·93	1·68	4·23	2·83	4·99	4·49	1·34	·14	·03	0·65	26·31
	1888–89 ..	1·42	4·12	·57	·67	·41	4·36	2·02	4·50	·64	·14	..	·40	19·33
	1889–90 ..	6·02	3·97	2·15	3·90	2·84	5·66	6·07	1·34	1·14	·02	..	..	33·13
	1890–91 ..	1·20	2·62	1·57	..	2·52	1·52	9·57	2·30	0·25	·80	·70	·75	23·82
	1891–92 ..	·50	·70	1·82	·95	·70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tiruchengód..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·78	4·07	1·88	1·74	4·48	3·80	6·36	4·22	1·28	·19	·12	·33	29·33
	1888–89 ..	1·35	2·42	1 85	·95	1·50	3·28	3·26	2·92	·22	·10	..	·20	18·06
	1889–90 ..	3·59	3·70	2·30	3·67	4·30	4·46	6·06	·70	1·10	0·17	..	0·27	30 34
	1890–91 ..	1·68	1·19	1·45	1·97	2·97	2·19	5·65	1·07	1·65	..	·70	·55	21·09
	1891–92 ..	·82	1·42	2·37	·57	·38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·86	5·02	1·99	2·03	5·96	4·12	6·77	4·32	1·90	·37	·29	·68	34·43
	1888–89 ..	·60	3·76	4·79	·30	1·32	6·07	3·16	5·59	·37	..	..	·25	26·24
	1889–90 ..	1·32	3·15	·91	5·35	8·27	4·78	7·45	0·34	1·15	0·11	..	0·22	33·08
	1890–91 ..	·59	4·81	2·44	1·64	6·24	5·10	5·71	6·72	..	0·17	·50	·45	34·20
	1891–92 ..	1·03	·52	1·85	1·17	1·65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hosúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·96	4·30	1·69	2·84	4·94	3·80	6·72	4·37	1·45	·25	·29	·35	31·99
	1888–89 ..	1·60	3·44	1·16	1·54	1·16	5·16	3·96	7·64	·17	·15	..	·15	26·15
	1889–90 ..	1·07	1·79	1·44	2·57	4·85	9·32	9·35	·50	1·92	0·17	..	1·12	34·13
	1890–91 ..	3·60	5·80	·57	2·39	4·16	3·00	6·38	6·87	0·04	·19	·32	1·02	34·26
	1891–92 ..	·18	·20	4·40	1·10	1·03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·64	3·52	1·62	3·49	5·73	3·39	5·79	4·50	1·71	·16	·20	·94	31·72
	1888–89 ..	·10	5·95	3 10	·10	·73	7·65	5·85	5·05	..	..	..	·50	29·03
	1889–90 ..	3·55	1·80	1·80	6·00	3·90	6·35	8·60	0·78	3·40	0·20	..	0·30	36·68
	1890–91 ..	·43	5·32	·75	1·35	4·28	5·10	6·43	5·03	6·00	1·00	1·35	..	37·64
	1891–92 ..	·15	3·00	3·17	·42	·80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·60	3·95	2·12	2·72	6·18	4·84	5·97	5·47	1·74	·16	·12	·30	34·19
	1888–89 ..	·79	4·25	1·27	1·02	1·87	10·69	8·14	4·25	·50	·22	..	·05	33·07
	1889–90 ..	2·95	1·65	2·39	4·59	4·83	5·96	10·36	0·18	3·21	..	..	..	36·12
	1890–91 ..	·30	3·29	3·19	2·09	8·35	5·36	5·41	1·16	·26	·45	·62	·12	30·63
	1891–92 ..	·86	1·67	2·66	·72	1·97	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Uttankarai ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·55	2·89	1·55	1·78	6·46	3·60	5·01	5·52	2·63	·57	·03	·47	31·08
	1888–89 ..	·40	3·71	1·66	1·87	4·62	9·35	5·29	8·85	1·12	..	..	·75	37·66
	1889–90 ..	·40	1·37	1·56	5·80	3·87	5·56	5·07	·52	1·42	0·42	..	1·24	26·97
	1890–91 ..	·65	4·12	2·11	2·22	5·48	5·24	4·32	2·71	·02	·85	1·05	·65	29·45
	1891–92 ..	·80	·60	2·50	·45	·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shevaroy Hills.	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·92	6·79	6·56	6·77	12·62	7·69	10·44	8·73	4·26	·51	·13	·90	67·36
	1888–89 ..	2·50	5·85	10·55	5·10	8·25	12·45	8·05	12·35	3·25	0·40	..	·45	69·20
	1889–90 ..	3·85	4·55	8·48	16·75	10·90	16·00	9·05	0·90	2·85	0·75	..	1·00	75·08
	1890–91 ..	2·80	4·45	5·25	6·65	8·05	5·00	5·85	8·75	0·55	0·60	3·18	1·45	52·58
	1891–92 ..	1·30	0·60	3·35	3·55	·40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total (District).	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·88	4·22	2·08	2·69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1888–89 ..	·90	3·61	2·75	1·58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1889–90 ..	2·73	2·82	2·55	5·62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1890–91 ..	1·32	3·62	2·59	2·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1891–92 ..	·86	·96	2·61	1.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

It will be seen from the above that the minor showers in April 1891, which are not due to the influence of any of the monsoons, were about the average in all the taluks.

In May 1891, however, about the end of which the south-west monsoon usually bursts with an average of 4·22 inches, there was little or no rain in Salem, Námakal, Dharmapuri, Hosúr, Uttankarai and even on the Shevaroy Hills. In Atúr, Tiruchengód and Tirupatúr, the rains were much less than, and in Krishnagiri about, the average for the respective taluks. The total average rainfall of the district was only ·96 of an inch against 3·62 in 1890–91, 2·82 in 1889–90, 3·61 in 1888–89 and 4·22, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In June 1891, the rainfall was above the averages of the respective taluk in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód, Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, and below it in the Atúr and Dharmapuri taluks and on the Shevaroys. The total average rainfall of the district was 2·61 inches against 2·08, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In July 1891, the rainfall was considerably less than the average in all the taluks except Atúr, Dharmapuri and Hosúr, where it was about half the average.

In August 1891 (up to 22nd), except in Atúr, Dharmapuri, Hosúr and Tirupatúr where the rainfall was between 1 and 2 inches, there was little or no rain in the remaining taluks.

5. Thus the position may be summed up by saying that the south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district, and that it has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankari division and the Tirupatúr divisions, it has followed three in different monsoons. In the rest of the district the position is not materially aggravated by former bad seasons.

6. *Cultivation.*—Statement A, herewith submitted, compares the occupied area, cultivation (1st crop), &c., in each of the faslis 1296 to 1300.

The extent cultivated in fasli 1300, 1890--91, in many instances exceeds even that in the last favorable year, viz., fasli 1296, and is not of itself an index to the state of the season. The rains of June, which were nearly normal, led to the ploughing and sowing of the land. But owing to the subsequent failure of the rains, the crop on all the lands so sown, except those under wells, has been lost and the ryots are only the poorer by the loss of their seed. The crop has now been totally lost on all dry lands sown prior to, and in the early part of, July.

From the amount of remissions granted, however, it may be seen that the season in the faslis from 1298 has been bad in the Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks.

7. A statement B, showing the cultivation in each month of the five years ending 1890–91 and in each month up to July of the current year in each taluk, is submitted. The following is an abstract thereof :—

Taluks.	—	April.		May.		June.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91 ..	7,763	1,377	11,982	1,122	25,263	1,241
	1891–92	2,357	921	3,685	768	18,695	986
Atúr	Average	852	1,024	409	564	1,852	1,437
	1891–92	312	413	207	174	2,925	1,573
Námakal	Average	1,818	1,292	2,505	1,250	8,007	2,166
	1891–92	1,259	1,068	2,576	2,554	4,755	1,668
Tiruchengód	Average	2,722	1,173	16,565	1,826	22,189	1,200
	1891–92	5,172	993	4,347	366	30,997	1,592
Hosúr	Average	681	2,053	332	371	5,004	676
	1891–92	3	6	1	6	..	..
Dharmapuri	Average	581	607	9,340	1,335	31,393	1,605
	1891–92	713	736	2,142	987	19,673	1,037
Krishnagiri	Average	540	467	1,835	936	17,010	755
	1891–92	28	132	243	675	..	..
Tirupatúr	Average	837	268	437	345	12,339	960
	1891–92	7	9	1	2	..	..
Uttankarai	Average	315	289	203	105	7,041	472
	1891–92	6	19	1	6	1,178	50
Total ..	Average	16,109	8,551	43,608	7,854	130,098	10,512
	1891–92	9,857	4,297	13,203	5,538	78,223	6,906

Taluks.	—	July.		Total.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
		9	10	11	12
		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91 ..	44,692	1,440	89,700	5,180
	1891–92	46,956	2,510	71,693	5,185
Atúr	Average	6,880	2,462	9,993	5,487
	1891–92	726	572	4,170	2,732
Námakal	Average	19,082	3,397	31,412	8,105
	1891–92	5,449	1,948	14,039	7,238
Tiruchengód	Average	30,256	404	71,732	4,603
	1891–92	41,648	981	82,164	3,932
Hosúr	Average	16,143	1,384	22,160	4,484
	1891–92	10,948	4,132	10,952	4,144
Dharmapuri	Average	16,115	1,195	57,429	4,742
	1891–92	25,984	1,387	48,512	4,147
Krishnagiri	Average	33,706	2,007	53,091	4,165
	1891–92	37,478	2,808	37,749	3,615
Tirupatúr	Average	21,652	904	35,265	2,477
	1891–92	30,429	2,397	30,437	2,408
Uttankarai	Average	14,873	484	22,432	1,351
	1891–92	21,942	843	23,127	918
Total ..	Average	203,399	13,677	393,214	40,594
	1891–92	221,560	17,578	322,843	34,319

The average cultivation of the five years ending 1890–91 amounts to 1,221,536 acres under dry and 125,708 acres under wet, and the average cultivation up to the end of July on the average of the same five years is 393,214 acres under dry and 40,594 acres under wet. The cultivation in the current year up to the end of July amounts to only 322,843 acres under dry, and 34,319 acres under wet, or 82·10 and 84·54 per cent., respectively, of the average figures. The decrease occurs in all the taluks except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai. In Tiruchengód the timely rains in May and June seem to have induced many ryots to cultivate their lands in the hope of getting further rains which unfortunately disappointed them. In Uttankarai the increase is small. The amount of cultivation under the south-west monsoon is, it will be seen, large under normal conditions in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and the taluks of the sub-division. In the former taluks, a large amount of dry cultivation is also made in the months of August, September, October and November. But as quite

half of the total cultivation made up to July must have been lost, it will be seen that the failure of the south-west monsoon in those taluks following seasons such as I have shown above must be a more serious matter than even in other parts of the district.

8. *Prices.*—The following statement compares the number of seers of 80 tolas of grain and other articles of produce per rupee in each of the years 1887–88 to 1890–91. Particulars for the years 1887–88 to 1889–90 have been taken from Board's Proceedings, dated 20th September 1890, No. 283 :—

Names of grains.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	April 1891.	May 1891.	June 1891.	July 1891.	Price on 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 1st sort	14·7	13·6	12·2	10·72	10·35	10·34	10·05	9·69	..
Rice, 2nd sort	16·3	15·2	14·0	12·47	12·1	12·0	11·6	11·3	10·62
Paddy, 1st sort	25·0	23·4	21·0	18·63	18·22	17·89	17·58	16·85	..
Paddy, 2nd sort	27·7	25·9	23·4	20·92	20·22	20·16	19·35	18·55	..
Cholum	30·3	25·9	26·0	22·39	21·5	21·2	21·3	19·3	17·97
Cumbu	29·5	26·2	26·3	23·39	21·4	20·7	20·2	19·5	18·19
Ragi	34·0	31·7	31·5	28·27	25·8	25·9	24·43	22·6	21·34
Varagu	36·6	33·5	32·1	30·64	26·22	25·99	25·52	24·65	..
Horse-gram	30·9	29·9	23·2	21·10	24·23	23·88	23·25	21·88	..
Salt	14·2	12·7	12·8	12·85	13·1	13·1	13·1	13·12	..

It will be seen that with the exception of horse-gram and salt, the prices of all the articles have, year after year, risen gradually, owing to a succession of bad seasons. The rise is most perceptible in 1890–91. The present prices are considerably higher than the average of 1890–91, but they are not unprecedented, as from the book containing the "prices and wages in India" published by the Government of India, it is observed that prices higher than the present prices ruled in the district in certain years as shown below :—

Years.	Rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.
1866	10·3	17·7	16·1	16·5
1867	8·	12·3	11·5	12·5
1868	10·5	16·8	16·3	17·4
1869	..	20·1	..	..
1876	..	19·28	..	..
1877	6·95	8·31	8·22	7·51
1878	8·35	12·08	11·18	11·55
1879	10·3	17·45	15·82	16·38

The above years are, of course, famine years, or years immediately succeeding such years.

9. A statement C, showing the average prices at each price-registering-station since 1888–89, is submitted. The following statement gives particulars for the taluk kasbah stations :—

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 2nd sort.								
Atúr	16·31	15·09	12·84	13·16	12·78	12·22	11·64	11·28
Salem	13·93	13·16	12·53	11·28	11·28	10·90	10·49	10·34
Hosúr	14·64	12·99	12·08	11·88	11·34	11·88	11·34	10·80
Dharmapuri	15·82	14·54	12·72	12·85	13·17	12·85	11·43	10·80
Krishnagiri	15·90	14·30	12·81	11·98	12·63	10·91	10·99	11·07
Námakal	15·93	14·73	12·98	13·30	13·11	12·82	11·87	11·75
Tiruchengód	14·63	13·79	11·76	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	10·34
Uttankarai	15·20	13·32	11·48	10·92	10·92	10·45	10·92	9·74
Tirupatúr	14·23	13·34	12·07	10·73	10·45	10·26	10·23	9·50

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Ragi.								
Atúr	22·95	28·71	25·58	24·79	22·40	23·25	22·54	20·52
Salem	30·38	38·20	27·27	24·79	25·13	23·94	21·89	20·94
Hosúr	39·39	42·15	36·49	32·98	32·98	31·04	27·16	27·16
Dharmapuri	31·75	32·67	29·95	27·93	27·64	26·09	24·05	21·34
Krishnagiri	31·16	31·10	28·22	25·51	26·28	22·40	21·34	20·37
Námakal	29·74	29·30	25·01	24·61	23·35	21·84	19·10	20·52
Tiruchengód	26·17	26·87	24·59	22·09	21·84	21·84	20·54	20·52
Uttankarai	32·67	29·66	25·80	23·52	23·52	23·52	21·00	20·16
Tirupatúr	30·88	27·84	25·89	21·92	21·84	21·33	19·81	20·58
Cholum.								
Atúr	25·39	26·92	22·11	21·11	20·93	24·57	20·69	18·20
Salem	25·81	25·75	21·87	20·93	21·11	20·93	18·65	18·20
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	30·92	28·90	28·26	25·92	24·08	22·24	21·80	..
Námakal	26·24	28·17	21·19	21·09	21·00	21·53	18·95	20·02
Tiruchengód	24·35	25·11	21·27	19·58	18·95	18·69	16·25	17·29
Uttankarai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr	23·09	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cumbu.								
Atúr	27·91	27·70	25·22	22·96	21·81	22·30	22·04	20·50
Salem	22·89	24·22	23·59	21·32	21·32	21·15	20·42	19·68
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	29·78	36·28	26·60	22·56	22·37	20·49	19·83	17·86
Námakal	28·05	28·47	21·06	20·65	18·71	17·82	17·63	18·04
Tiruchengód	22·13	25·27	22·72	21·30	20·73	20·00	18·45	18·04
Uttankarai	30·92	26·58	24·80	22·68	22·68	22·68	20·25	17·82
Tirupatúr	27·57	25·43	22·76	20·41	19·44	19·19	17·82	15·39

It will be seen from the above that the price of second-sort rice is considerably higher in Tirupatúr (9·50) and Uttankarai (9·74) than in the other taluks—Salem and Tiruchengód following them; that the price of ragi, the standard grain for the district, rules highest in Uttankarai; that cholum, the price of which in July at Tiruchengód was 16·25 seers, has since fallen to 17·29 seers the rupee, and that it is the highest at which it sells; and that cumbu sells as high as 15·39 and 17·82 seers the rupee in Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, respectively.

10. A statement D showing the average monthly prices is submitted.

11 The staple grains of the district are second-sort rice, ragi, cholum and cumbu, and their scarcity rates as fixed in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137, are compared below with the prevailing rates :—

Staple grains.	Average price during the famine year 1877.	Normal rate, *i.e.*, average of three years ending 1875-76.	Scarcity rate sanctioned for the district in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137.	Prices for the week ending 22nd August 1891.	Percentage of rise over the normal rates.	Percentage below the scarcity rates.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	7·3	14·30	8·5	10·62	25·73	24·94
Ragi	9·2	27·52	13·5	21·34	22·46	58·07
Cholum	8·75	23·25	11·5	18·19	21·76	58·17
Cumbu	9·3	25·92	13·0	17·97	30·67	38·23

It will be seen from the above that while the price of ragi and cholum shows a rise of less than 25 per cent. over the normal rates, that of rice shows a rise of 25·73 per cent. and cumbu 30·67 per cent. The large rise in the price of cumbu is due to the entire failure of the cumbu crop sown in May and June owing to want of rain in July and August. The price of ragi which is the standard grain for this district is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate.

12. Having given particulars for the whole district regarding rainfall, cultivation and prices, I proceed to review the state of each taluk as reported to me by the Tahsildars. The Personal Assistant Deputy Collector has submitted a report on the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk and the General Charge Deputy Collector on the Námakal division. Copies of their reports are submitted.

13. *Atúr.*—The rainfall of one inch on the 17th of August has improved the condition of the standing crops, viz., ragi, cumbu, indigo and paddy. No agricultural operations are in progress. Ryots wait for further rains. Pasture is scanty. Water-supply is insufficient.

14. *Krishnagiri.*—The standing crops, viz., cumbu, ragi, samai and gingelly-oil seeds are fading for want of rain. Pasture is scarcely available ; in some parts cattle are dying. Water-supply is insufficient for agricultural operations. It is obtained with difficulty in some parts for drinking purposes.

15. *Tirupatúr.*—The standing crops are cumbu, varagu, cholum, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), castor-oil plants, sugarcane and paddy. Those in the vicinity of good wells and under the Pálár irrigation are in a somewhat good condition. In some places cumbu is lost ; in other places it is withering for want of rain. Ragi and samai were sown after the rains in the past week. A greater portion of land is lying waste for want of rain. Pasture is scanty. Drinking-water supply is defective in some places.

16. *Hosúr.*—The standing crops, viz., ragi, avarai (beans), cumbu and gingelly have improved by the recent fall of rain. Paddy and sugarcane are in good condition in some places. Ragi and avarai (beans) have been sown. Pasture and fodder are insufficient. Deaths among cattle are reported. Cattle are being taken to forest parts for grazing purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is sufficient ; for agricultural operations it is insufficient.

17. *Dharmapuri.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, cumbu, varagu, samai and ragi are in good condition. Paddy and gingelly were harvested ; the outturn was from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy, ragi, samai, varagu, avarai (beans) and oil-seeds are sown. Pasture is insufficient. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes, but it is insufficient for agricultural operations. The Tahsildar states that if there be no rain within four or five days it is expected that the crops will begin to fade. I have since heard that there was an inch of rain at Palcode on the night of the 23rd.

18. *Námakal.*—The crops under the Cauvery channels are in an excellent condition. The crops under wells, except in the Kahilakurichi firka, where the supply in wells is insufficient, are in a fair condition. The crops on other lands, viz., cholum, ragi, cumbu, thenai and cotton have improved by the rainfall, on the 15th and 17th August, of five and two tenths respectively. Lands are being ploughed up everywhere, and in parts where the recent rains fell varagu, samai and cumbu are being sown. Pasture is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts and at the foot of the Kollimalais. Fodder is exported to the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks. Water-supply for drinking purposes is just sufficient in the Shendamangalam firka, but insufficient elsewhere. Water-supply for agricultural operations is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts. Cumbu and cholum have been harvested in some places ; the outturn was from 4 to 12 annas. Paddy is being harvested under the Cauvery channels, and the outturn is from 12 to 16 annas.

19. *Uttankarai.*—The standing crops, cumbu, avarai (beans), varagu, samai and thovarai (dholl), are withering for want of rain. Cattle suffer from want of pasture. Scarcity of water is greatly felt. Any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit the standing crops, but may help to sow paddy, cumbu, &c. Harvests and other agricultural operations are *nil*. Cholera is prevalent in parts of the taluk.

A statement (E) showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 24,045 acres were cultivated against the three years' average of 18,646 acres and against the five years' average of 23,783 acres. The increase of cultivation over the three years' average is due to the

fact that in those years cultivation was much less than in the two previous years. Of the area cropped, viz., 24,045 acres, cumbu, cholum and ragi cover more than half. The information furnished by the Tahsildar on the state of the season is meagre, and the Head Assistant Collector will be asked to submit a detailed report as early as possible.

20. *Salem.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, ragi, pani varagu, cumbu, samai, cholum, thenai, gingelly, castor-oil seeds, thovarai (dholl), avarai (beans), ground-nut and varagu in Mecheri, Omalúr, Salem and Karipatti firkas have already withered or are fading. The crops under wells in the Rasipur, Salem and Karipatti firkas, are in a fair condition. Thenai, cumbu and varagu in the Rasipur firka are being harvested, outturn being from 4 to 8 annas. Agricultural operations are at a standstill except under wells in some parts of the Rasipur firka. If there be rain before the 5th September, cholum, varagu, cumbu, ground-nut, avarai (beans), thovarai, (dholl) and castor-oil seeds in some villages and crops under wells will revive. No crops in the Mecheri firka, however, will be benefited. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, the standing crops will not be benefited except those under wells having a fair supply, which may thrive and yield an outturn of not more than 8 annas. If rain falls within the 5th September, cholum, perum cumbu, ragi, karunjamai, tobacco, white thenai, horse-gram, black gram, Bengal gram and green gram may be sown ; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, pani varagu, cholum, perum cumbu, horse-gram, Bengal gram and black gram may be sown or transplanted ; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. The Tahsildar reports that small farmers and agricultural labourers suffer much because they find no labour, that some people eat aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits, that cattle suffer much from want of fodder, and that some of them have actually died. Scarcity of water even for drinking purposes for men and cattle is very keenly felt except in some villages of the Rasipur, Karipatti and Salem firkas. Almost all the tanks and streams are empty and supply in wells is diminishing.

21. The following facts are gathered from the Personal Assistant Deputy Collector's report on the state of season in the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk :—

There are 70 tanks in the division. Most of them are empty and none has received any decent supply. There was literally no cultivation under tanks. Under only one tank (Gollapatti) this has been commenced, and seedlings have been raised under a few others. There is no water in the great majority of the wells used for agricultural purposes. The wells used for drinking purposes are, except in a few cases which do not, however, supply the requisite quantity of water, nearly dried up. The loudest complaint which one meets with is as regards the drinking-water supply, and drought seems to threaten man and beast more than any other, foreboding serious alarm. The standing crops are samai, cumbu, cholum, gingelly, ragi, varagu, pani varagu, castor-oil seeds, thenai, thovarai (dholl) and avarai (beans). Pani varagu is lost everywhere. Kullan cumbu appears to have been harvested in some places and yielded a two-anna crop. In some places it is a hopeless crop and stalks are drying up. Even immediate rainfall will hardly benefit the crop. The crop is in many places cut and used for fodder. Gingelly is almost lost. Ragi, which is the most considerable staple grain, is nowhere seen to any appreciable extent. In some places it has been eaten by green worms. In some villages ragi seedlings raised for transplantation have been partly lost. Varagu is in a fair condition. Castor-oil seeds and thovarai (dholl) are in a good condition. Perum cumbu, cholum, samai, ragi, and thenai are fading. The Deputy Collector writing on the 6th August considered that these crops would revive if rain fell in a fortnight, but there has been no fall of rain worth mentioning since. The extent cultivated is about 30 per cent. of that cultivated in fasli 1296. The year is worse than most of the preceding years in which rainfall was deficient, and the country presents a serious and an alarming aspect. About 8,000 kandagams of ragi and 1,200 of paddy are held in stock exclusive of the stock held by the ryots for their private consumption. The markets are sufficiently supplied. In no shandy or market has any complaint been received or known as to the deficiency of stock for sale to intending purchasers. The grain trade is nowhere

lax and the supply is equal to the demand, which, however, is on the increase owing to the absence of harvest of the early crop which should have been had by this time. Prices are on the increase. There has, however, been no sudden rise, but, so far as the dry grains are concerned, the present prices are 60 per cent. higher than those which prevailed in the harvest time in a good year and about 40 per cent. higher than the price which prevailed in the last harvest time. The prices have not reached any alarming stage, but are of course very dear. About 40,000 people purchase grain in markets and about 60,000 live upon their stock, which will carry them from one month to one year and above. In some places there is pasture and fodder which are being used up rapidly. In other places they are either quite insufficient or scarce. In some places roots of grass are dug up and used for cattle. Small and poor pattadars are using even their thatch for the cattle and, wherever procurable, leaves of margosa, palmyra, unja, palai and other trees are being utilized as fodder. Cattle are brought in numbers for sale at markets and their price is falling. The classes that are suffering much are small pattadars and coolies of the Pariah and Chuckler castes. About 10,000 persons are out of their usual employment, agricultural operations being at a standstill. Some of them are employed by well-to-do ryots in improving their lands; some cut and sell firewood, grass, &c., in towns; some who could obtain credit take loans and live upon them; and some have resorted to towns in hopes of finding cooly there. No serious complaint of starvation has been received, but there is no doubt that difficulties and sufferings exist almost everywhere; some make up their food by substituting gruel for solid food with the addition of aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits. More care is taken by people to spare all means available for purchase of food. Notwithstanding all this, the people are hopeful of rain under the north-east monsoon. The Deputy Collector considers that it is too early to start any relief works, that we may wait till September, and that if rain still holds off measures of relief would then be very necessary, the ordinary works being quite sufficient for the present. The Deputy Collector states that the country west of Suramangalam and south of Salem-Omalúr road is also reported to be similar in condition to the Omalúr division. A statement F showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 75,179 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the 3 years' average of 95,232 acres. Cholum, cumbu and ragi cover more than half the area. The extent on which crops have been harvested up to date and the outturn are given below:—

Crops.	16 annas.	8 annas.	4 annas.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Cholum	329	858	448	1,635
Cumbu	8	136	1,245	1,389
Ragi	4	68	16	88
Other pulses, &c.	25	208	70	303
Gingelly-oil seeds	20	166	239	425
Topes	89	66	54	209
Total ..	475	1,502	2,072	4,049

22. *Tiruchengód.*—Standing crops are cholum, cumbu, ragi, samai, thenai, castor-oil seeds, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), tattapayar, cotton and varagu. All these crops, except those under wells which have water, are withering or have already withered, and any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit them. Agricultural operations are at a standstill. The first gingelly crop had failed. Cholum under wells has been harvested in some places. Outturn was from 4 to 8 annas. Cattle look lean and emaciated from want of fodder. Palmyra and margosa leaves and thatch are used for fodder. The General Deputy Collector has reported that people sell their jewels, &c., to buy the necessaries of life, that a few families of chucklers have left their homes in search of labour, that it appears that there is no stock of food-grains either in the villages or with the merchants, that food-grains are imported from other stations, that drinking-water scarcity is the most keenly felt want in this taluk, and that landless and labouring classes are in urgent need of employment.

A statement G showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 86,095 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the three years' average of 72,614 acres. The increase is due, as already stated, to the timely rains in May and June, which, however, were not followed by further rains as expected. Cumbu covers more than 60,000 acres. Particulars of harvests and outturn are not reported. The standing cumbu crops are reported to have almost withered.

23. The statistics of rainfall, cultivation and prices, and the review of the taluks given above will show that the only taluks giving cause for anxiety at present are Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, where there has been a succession of bad seasons since 1888–89. The whole of the Salem taluk, however, connot be said to be seriously affected. It is only the western portion, viz., the tract of country lying to the west of the Tirumanimuthar, that is so. The country on that side of the river is on a high level and is always the first to be affected by bad seasons. The most generally felt wants at present are drinking water and fodder. That the first should fail is not to be wondered at considering the almost complete cessation of rains since December last, for any rain which has since fallen has been in local and partial showers. This of course has brought with it a complete failure of pasture.

24. With a view to relieve, as far as our resources allow, the first want, I have, in my memorandum, dated 7th August 1891, No. 1284-L.F., requested Presidents of the Taluk Boards, Salem, Námakal, and Tirupatúr to take early steps to improve, in all legitimate ways, the existing drinking-water supply, either by sinking new wells or deepening and improving existing wells, in those localities where the pressure is most severely felt, and have informed them that for this purpose the District Board will be prepared to consider favorably applications for extra allotments. The budget grant, including subsequent allotments, for improvement of water-supply in the three Local Fund taluks of Salem, Námakal and Tirupatúr, which include the affected localities, amounts to Rs. 3,010, of which Rs. 1,096 have been spent up to July (inclusive). The Salem Taluk Board has since sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for improvement of water-supply, and the Námakal Taluk Board has applied for an allotment of Rs. 1,487 for deepening the bed of, and improving, the Kamalalayam tank. No intimation of the steps taken to improve water-supply has been received from the President of the Tirupatúr Taluk Board. I am asking the Presidents of the Taluk Boards concerned to furnish me with a weekly statement of the progress made in sinking and improving wells. I believe, however, that estimates have been called for and submitted in most instances in Salem and Tiruchengód, and that considerable aid has been already or will immediately be given.

25. With regard to pasture, on receiving mahazars from certain villagers in the Salem taluk requesting that their cattle be admitted to grazing in forest reserves (with reference to the Board's proposed amendment of section 98 of the Famine Code—Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1890, No. 274), I asked the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, in my letter, dated 8th August 1891, Ref. on No. 2828-Eng., to let me know what forests could be opened to grazing or in which the grazing rates could be lowered to serve the Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks. With reference to the Conservator's letter in reply, dated 17th August 1891, No. 1353, a notice has been issued to the effect that during the prevalence of drought grazing of cattle and sheep but not goats will be permitted free in all the reserved forests and reserved lands of the Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks, except certain specially protected blocks, subject to the proviso that, if any persons in charge of, or connected with, the cattle grazing, are found destroying trees or shrub growth either by hacking or wrenching off with their hands, the concession will at once be cancelled as regards all cattle in their charge. Nothing more can be done in the matter.

26. The population principally affected may be divided into ryots and agricultural labourers. The former are eager for loans, and it is of urgent importance, at this critical period, to push on the digging of wells. The special well rules

under section 10 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, have been extended to this district under Government notification, dated 1st August 1891, No. 346, published at page 803, of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th August 1891. The Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód state that applications for loans are being received every day in large numbers, and the same is very likely the case in the other affected taluks. I myself, yesterday, at Chinnappampatti, received 15 applications for loans. I have issued very stringent orders to the Tahsildars to make special arrangements to see that the applications are disposed of promptly. I am sure that the number of applications will become so large as to be beyond the power of the ordinary establishment to inquire into and dispose of as promptly as is required, and I request that two additional 1st-class Revenue Inspectors, for each of the three affected taluks, may be sanctioned to inquire into, and report on, the applications. The additional Revenue Inspectors will be employed only when it is found that the ordinary establishment is unable to do the work required promptly. No other measures are now necessary to alleviate the pressure upon the ryots who will, on the whole, with the usual food stocks with them (I do not agree with the General Charge Deputy Collector in considering that there is no grain in stock) manage, without very much stress, until the next harvest.

27. Labourers are of two kinds, viz., those who are employed permanently, and those who are so, only, casually.

28. I understand that the permanent labourers will be fed and kept on by the ryots until the time of the north-east monsoon, or at least until the end of September, in the hope that the monsoon will be favorable. If then, the rains hold off, the ryots will retain their resources for themselves, and turn the labourers adrift, it will then be time enough to take measures for their relief. No cases of permanent labourers having been turned out by the ryots, have, as yet, come to notice.

29. Except the report of the local officers there is no sign of any scarcity of work for the casual labourers. There is no large influx into the town; the returns received from the Superintendent of Police show that only 110 persons have come into the town up to date; there is no noticeable increase of crime, though the General Deputy Collector states that the Police officers find a tendency in the crime, to increase everywhere in the affected parts; the price of ragi is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate; and there is neither cholera nor small-pox in any of the affected taluks except Uttankarai, where a few cases have been reported. At the same time it is certain that the casual labourers are not being now employed by the ryots in the affected tracts nor will they be so, unless there is a decided change in agricultural prospects. There is, I fear, considerable pressure on them just now. Everywhere I go, the pariahs and lower castes come in crowds asking for work. In Sunkari and the north-west of Salem, there has been some rain lately, which has enabled these classes to get a little employment, but if the season does not continue to improve, it is to be feared that soon these men will wander about the country, unless work is provided for them at convenient centres. They have now been practically without employ for two months, and must be getting near the end of their resources. In the course of my present tour, I have come through Omalúr and the northern end of Tiruchengód. I have not seen any signs of actual want or emaciation in the people. The time has not come just yet, I think, for relief works, but for the present, *i.e.*, until the end of September, when a change is expected in the prospects of the season, the ordinary road works, minor irrigation works, village site improvements and deepening of wells, will be quite sufficient. Steps are being taken to provide works of the kind wherever needed. I would sum up the situation thus:—

30. If we have a bumper north-east monsoon continuing steadily from September onwards, which will give a good crop and fill the wells so that work may continue through the hot weather, no relief of any kind will be necessary.

If we have only a moderate monsoon and moderate crop so that work may not be easily had, in the hot weather, there will be distress then, which may need relief.

If the rain fails to come well through September and October and the north-east monsoon fails, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts of this district, gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon. If the rain holds off and the season does not continue to improve during the first half of September, it will be necessary at once to prepare to open relief works, which must be started by 1st October at latest.

31. Thus, if the north-east monsoon rains hold off in September, it will be necessary to adopt measures of relief about the beginning of October in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks and, perhaps, afterwards, in the Uttankarai taluk.

32. No reports of distress reach me from Pennagaram. I am calling for a special report from the Sub-Collector as to the condition of that tract.

33. In the event of its being found necessary to adopt relief measures, I propose that relief be administered by means of (1) works, and (2) gratuitous relief in poor-houses only.

34. (1) *Works.*—The following statement gives particulars of the programme of professional and civil agency works for 1891–92 (Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 478):—

Affected taluks.	Local Fund Works.				Minor Irrigation Works.				Total.			
	Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.	
			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.
		Rs.				Rs.				Rs.		
Salem	6	83,090	1,108	1,108	79	23,860	318	318				
	Municipal Works.								96	1,20,650	1,609	1,609
	11	13,700	183	183	..	..	..	..				
Tiruchengód	2	57,801	770	770	77	39,444	526	526	79	97,245	1,296	1,296
Uttankarai	1	23,482	313	313	176	17,380	232	232	177	40,862	545	545
Local Fund works extending over more than one taluk ..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191	..	..	..	..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191
Total ..	29	3,42,446	4,565	4,565	332	80,684	1,076	1,076	361	4,23,130	5,641	5,641

35. Since the submission of the above programme to the Board, I called upon the Local Fund Engineer to submit estimates for the repair of certain roads selected by me in the affected localities, and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód taluks to submit estimates for the repair of three minor irrigation works in each firka of their taluks situated in convenient centres, so that the works might readily be taken up in case of emergency.

36. The following statement gives particulars of works so selected and for which estimates are ready on hand:—

Taluks.	Firka.	Particulars of works selected.	Estimated cost.
Tiruchengód	Elur	Repair of 10 minor irrigation works, being tanks, anicuts and channels	11,362
	Sankaridrug	Repair of 2 works, do. do. ..	1,500
	Yadapadi	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	1,910
	Tiruchengód	Do. 3 works, do. do. ..	1,706
Salem	Salem	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	760
	Rasipur	Do. do. do. do. ..	905
	Omalúr	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,210
	Mecheri	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,040
	Kanpatti	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,260
Salem and Tiruchengód.	....	9 road works	29,240
		Total ..	50,893

37. As I found, on a perusal of the list of professional agency works communicated in Government Order, dated 26th May 1891, No. 454, that none of the

works therein mentioned as available for famine relief in this district would be of the slightest use to the west and south of the district, I have, in my letter, dated 1st August 1891, Reference on No. 1466-B and G, requested the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to call for, and have in hand, some project to benefit the Tiruchengód and Salem (west) taluks, as well as Uttankarai, so that they may be available at short notice. It is not known what works the Chief Engineer has selected.

38. I have also asked the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore division, to postpone giving out, on contract, all available works in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, as long as possible.

39. Besides, on the receipt of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450, advising the Collectors of districts in which the position is critical to submit programmes of famine relief works and to get estimates ready at once, I called upon the Tahsildars of Salem, Tiruchengód, Námakal, Uttankarai and Tirupatúr, to submit a general list of major and minor irrigation works which could be taken up in their taluks in the event of relief works being required therein.

40. A list of irrigation works has been received from the Tahsildar of Uttankarai; particulars are given below :—

Taluk.	Firka.	Particulars of works.	Estimated cost.
			RS.
Uttankarai ..	Uttankarai ..	2 Major irrigation works	6,000
		14 Minor do.	8,200
	Karúr	5 Major do.	26,000
	Morapur	13 Minor do.	7,700
		10 Do. do.	6,100
		Total ..	54,000

41. The other Tahsildars are also sending in similar lists and are preparing estimates.

42. Lists of minor irrigation works in the prescribed form will be submitted for sanction shortly. The works will be commenced only if it is considered necessary to adopt relief measures.

43. I understand, however, that there will be considerable difficulty in finding suitable irrigation or road repairs in the Tiruchengód taluk. I am in correspondence with the Executive Engineer about the irrigation works. The difficulty arises, as almost all are in repairs, that the tank restoration party having just left the taluk.

44. If relief works are to be started I propose that all the works should be carried out by the Public Works Department, and that *no* relief work should be executed under civil agency.

45. Such works are mostly a pleasant picnic for the labourers, who are employed, at their own doors, and who are not required really to work, and are mostly but a pleasant lounge-a-way of spending a happy day, and being paid by Government for it. Such works as clearing village-site, &c., were suggested to me in a mahazar, at Omalúr, but when I asked if the able-bodied labourers would go six miles to stone-breaking on a road, none would go. I consider that in the early days of distress, when a test of the necessity of relief is really wanted real work should be exacted from all applicants till severe famine is demonstrated.

46. The employment of only professional agency is in accordance with the intention of Government in paragraph 10 of G.O., dated 19th December 1890, No. 1026, Revenue, communicated in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1891, No. 38, which, I consider, should be strictly carried out. I request that arrangements may be made so that the Public Works Department staff of this district may be strengthened at a very short notice, and that that department may be ordered to undertake the supervision and execution of the relief works opened.

47. (2) *Gratuitous relief in Poor-houses.*—In regard to the administration of relief in poor-houses, I am in correspondence with the Divisional officers concerned

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th September 1891, No. 560 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., Collector and District Magistrate of Salem, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Salem, 29th August 1891, No. 1858 :—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the state of the season and the condition and prospects of the district.

2. *Rainfall.*—The following statement shows the rainfall of the years 1888–89, 1889–90 and 1890–91, compared with the average of the ten years ending 1887–88 and the average of the six years previous to the famine :—

Rain-registering stations.	Average rainfall of the six years ending 1875–76.		Average of 10 years ending 1887–88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Salem Taluk.										
Salem			29·27	15·46	22·55	11·59	38·49	12·24	21·52	9·37
Rasipur			17·08	12·89	17·70	8·00	28·75	6·43	17·63	8·55
Omalúr			18·35	10·95	16·68	8·33	25·14	11·76	22·46	9·58
			21·57	13·08	18·97	9·31	30·79	10·14	20·53	9·16
Atúr Taluk.										
Atúr			20·82	16·10	20·35	15·25	24·75	9·75	23·14	14·18
Námakal Taluk.										
Námakal			16·02	13·60	13·26	3·93	29·10	9·28	9·25	15·20
Paramathi			13·29	9·71	9·90	11·58	20·00	7·89	9·65	13·55
			14·65	11·65	11·58	7·75	24·55	8·58	9·45	14·37
Tiruchengód Taluk.										
Tiruchengód .. .			15·19	12 59	13·11	6·10	21·55	8·90	8·80	14·00
Sankaridrug			18·41	12·48	9·61	7·30	22·51	7·73	14·13	5·25
			16·80	12.53	11·36	6·70	22·03	8·32	11·46	9·62
Dharmapuri Taluk.										
Dharmapuri			20·25	15·11	19·88	13·74	23·14	8·77	13·20	17·40
Pennagaram			19·87	13·64	13·83	5·03	24·45	9·80	16·10	7·85
			20·06	14·37	16·85	9·38	23·79	9·28	14·65	12·62

Stationwar particulars not available. Do.

Rain-registering stations.	Average rainfall of the six years ending 1875–76.		Average of 10 years ending 1887–88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Hosúr Taluk.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Hosúr	Station war particulars not available.	do.	20·64	13·58	17·20	11·88	21·21	14·65	20·86	12·06
Denkanikóta			16·50	13 27	10·95	12·28	20·90	11·50	25·57	19·28
			18·57	13·42	14·07	12·08	21·05	13·07	23·21	15·67
Krishnagiri Taluk.										
Krishnagiri			18·41	13·31	17 63	11·40	23·40	13·28	17·23	19·81
Tirupatúr Taluk.										
Tirupatúr			21·97	13·68	22·80	13·20	20·41	10·73	22·84	7·76
Vániyambádi			18·89	13 87	17·01	13 13	24·33	16·78	22·34	8·33
			20·43	13·77	19·90	13·16	22·37	13·75	22·59	8·04
Uttankarai Taluk.										
Uttankarai			17·90	13·74	21·38	16·58	20·60	7·28	22·03	6·60
Harur			15·81	14·72	21·89	15·15	15·96	10·10	17·65	12 62
			16·85	14·23	21·63	15·86	18·28	8·69	19·84	9·62
Shevaroy Hills			42·38	24·98	44 70	24·50	60·53	14·55	32·20	20·38
District Average ..	23·04	12·26	20·06	14·09	18·35	11·62	25·82	10·63	18·98	12·33

35·30 average for 6 years ending 1876.
34·15 do. for 10 do. do. 1888.
29·97 do. of 1888–89.
36·45 do. of 1889–90.
31·31 do. of 1890–91.

Taking the district as a whole it will be seen that the rainfall as a whole has been deficient except in one year, when there was a slight excess. In that one year it will be seen that while there was an excess under the south-west monsoon, there was a deficiency under the north-east. In that year, also, the distribution of the rain was not normal. Looking into the details of the statement, it will be seen that the rainfall has been deficient in Salem division, of the Salem taluk, in all monsoons but one—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. In Rasipur, the south-west monsoon has been normal in all 3 years, while the north-east has failed. Omalúr has had one good season with one failure of the south-west monsoon, and but a slight deficiency in the north-east. Atúr has had one failure of the north-east monsoon and not altogether bad seasons otherwise. Námakal has had one good south-west monsoon and one north-east monsoon, the last good, but the rest have been failures. Paramathi has had but two failures of the south-west monsoon. In Hosúr, both divisions, the seasons have been practically normal, while the same is true of Krishnagiri. In Tirupatúr division the south-west monsoons have practically not failed at all, while the last two north-east monsoons have been failures. In Vániyambádi the season has been the same, except that only one north-east monsoon has failed. In the Uttankarai division, the south-west monsoon has not failed, but the two last north-east monsoons have been failures. In the Harur division, however, the seasons have been normal. The above remarks may be summarized in the annexed statement where—

F stands for favorable season, or nearly up to, or above, the average; and

U stands for unfavorable, or considerably below the average.

Rain-registering stations.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.		Total Favorable.	Total Unfavorable.
	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.		
Salem	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Rasipur	F	U	F	U	F	U	3	3
Omalúr	F	U	F	U	F	F	5	1
Atúr	F	F	F	U	F	F	5	1
Námakal	U	U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Paramathi	U	U	F	U	U	F	4	2
Tiruchengód	U	U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Sankaridrug	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Dharmapuri	F	U	F	U	U	U	3	3
Pennagaram	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Hosúr	U	U	F	F	F	F	4	2
Denkanikota	U	U	F	U	F	F	3	3
Krishnagiri	U	U	F	U	F	F	4	2
Tirupatúr	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Vániyambádi	F	F	F	U	F	U	5	1
Uttankarai	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Harur	F	F	F	F	F	F	5	1
Shevaroys	F	F	F	U	U	U	3	3

From this we learn that the Salem division of the Salem taluk, the Sankari division of Tiruchengód, and the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri have had only one normal monsoon in the last six—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. The Námakal division of Námakal, the Tiruchengód division of Tiruchengód have had only two normal monsoons in the last six, but those have been the south-west of 1889-90 and the north-east of 1890–91. Rasipur, Denkanikóta, Dharmapuri and Shevaroys have had three normal and three unfavorable monsoons; and in the rest of the district there has been a preponderance of normal.

3. *Monsoons.*—The following table shows the actual deficiency in the rainfall :—

Taluks.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).
Salem	— 2·60	— 3·77	+ 9·22	— 2·94	— 1·04	— 3·92
Atúr	— 0·47	— 0·85	+ 3·93	— 6·35	+ 2·32	— 1·92
Námakal	— 3·07	— 3·90	+ 9·90	— 3·07	— 5·20	+ 2·72
Tiruchengód	— 5·44	— 5·83	+ 5·23	— 4·21	— 5·34	— 2·91
Dharmapuri	— 3·21	— 4·99	+ 3·73	— 5·09	— 5·41	— 1·75
Hosúr	— 4·50	— 1·34	+ 2·48	— 0·35	+ 4·64	+ 2·25
Krishnagiri	— 0·78	— 1·91	+ 4·99	— 0·03	— 1·18	+ 6·50
Tirupatúr	— 0·53	— 0·61	+ 1·94	— 0·02	+ 2·16	— 5·73
Uttankarai	+ 4·78	+ 1·63	+ 1·43	— 5·54	+ 2·99	— 4·61
Shevaroy Hills	+ 1·32	— 0·48	+ 18·15	— 10·43	— 10·18	— 4·60
Total Average ..	— 1·71	— 2·47	+ 5·76	— 3·46	— 1·08	— 1·76

4. The following statement shows the monthly rainfall in each taluk and the rainfall up to date.

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Salem ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·90	4·30	2·46	2·93	6·78	4·17	6·80	4·07	1·28	·29	·07	·58	34·66
	1888–89 ..	·47	2·80	3·64	3·05	3·35	5·64	3·38	4·97	·61	·07	..	·25	28·28
	1889–90 ..	2·78	3·19	4·22	7·64	4·99	7·96	6·22	1·06	1·50	·06	..	1·39	40·93
	1890–91 ..	1·16	3·09	4·12	4·48	4·95	2·72	3·09	4·26	·23	·09	·92	·56	29·70
	1891–92 ..	1·61	·68	2·73	·97	·96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·11	4·42	1·64	3·59	6·40	3·62	6·99	6·41	1·53	·35	·01	·78	36·92
	1888–89 ..	..	1·35	2·45	1·50	3·05	12·00	4·75	6·50	1·00	..	..	3·00	35·60
	1889–90 ..	2·75	3·60	1·40	3·75	2·15	11·10	4·55	·60	2·35	·55	..	1·80	34·60
	1890–91 ..	0··5	2·50	5·58	2·45	6·83	4·83	4·20	5·80	..	..	1·65	2·53	37·32
	1891–92 ..	·80	1·45	1·00	1·50	1·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Námakal ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	0·99	3·97	·93	1·68	4·23	2·83	4·99	4·49	1·34	·14	·03	0·65	26·31
	1888–89 ..	1·42	4·12	·57	·67	·41	4·36	2·02	4·50	·64	·14	..	·40	19·33
	1889–90 ..	6·02	3·97	2·15	3·90	2·84	5·66	6·07	1·34	1·14	·02	..	..	33·13
	1890–91 ..	1·20	2·62	1·57	..	2·52	1·52	9·57	2·30	0·25	·80	·70	·75	23·82
	1891–92 ..	·50	·70	1·82	·95	·70	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..
Tiruchengód..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·78	4·07	1·88	1·74	4·48	3·80	6·36	4·22	1·28	·19	·12	·33	29·33
	1888–89 ..	1·35	2·42	1·85	·95	1·50	3·28	3·26	2·92	·22	·10	..	·20	18 06
	1889–90 ..	3·59	3·70	2·30	3·67	4·30	4·46	6·06	·70	1·10	0·17	..	0·27	30 34
	1890–91 ..	1·68	1·19	1·45	1·97	2·97	2·19	5·65	1·07	1·65	..	·70	·55	21·09
	1891–92 ..	·82	1·42	2·37	·57	·38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·86	5·02	1·99	2·03	5·96	4·12	6·77	4·32	1·90	·37	·29	·68	34·43
	1888–89 ..	·60	3·76	4·79	·30	1·32	6·07	3·16	5·59	·37	..	..	·25	26·24
	1889–90 ..	1·32	3·15	·91	5·35	8·27	4·78	7·45	0·34	1·15	0·11	..	0·22	33·08
	1890–91 ..	·59	4·81	2·44	1·64	6·24	5·10	5·71	6·72	..	0·17	·50	·45	34·20
	1891–92 ..	1·03	·52	1·85	1·17	1·65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hosúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·96	4·30	1·69	2·84	4·94	3·80	6·72	4·37	1·45	·25	·29	·35	31·99
	1888–89 ..	1·60	3·44	1·16	1·54	1·16	5·16	3·96	7·64	·17	·15	..	·15	26·15
	1889–90 ..	1·07	1·79	1·44	2·57	4·85	9·32	9·35	·50	1·92	0·17	..	1·12	34·13
	1890–91 ..	3·60	5·80	·57	2·39	4·16	3·00	6·38	6·87	0·04	·19	·32	1·02	34·26
	1891–92 ..	·18	·20	4·40	1·10	1·03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·64	3·52	1·62	3·49	5·73	3·39	5·79	4·50	1·71	·16	·20	·94	31·72
	1888–89 ..	·10	5·95	3 10	·10	·73	7·65	5·85	5·05	..	..	..	·50	29·03
	1889–90 ..	3·55	1·80	1·80	6·00	3·90	6·35	8·60	0·78	3·40	0·20	..	0·30	36·68
	1890–91 ..	·43	5·32	·75	1·35	4·28	5·10	6·43	5·03	6·00	1·00	1·35	..	37·64
	1891–92 ..	·15	3·00	3·17	·42	·80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·60	3·95	2·12	2·72	6·18	4·84	5·97	5·47	1·74	·16	·12	·30	34·19
	1888–89 ..	·79	4·25	1·27	1·02	1·87	10·69	8·14	4·25	·50	·22	..	·05	33·07
	1889–90 ..	2·95	1·65	2·39	4·59	4·83	5·96	10·36	0·18	3·21	..	..	..	36·12
	1890–91 ..	·30	3·29	3·19	2·09	8·35	5·36	5·41	1·16	·26	·45	·62	·12	30·63
	1891–92 ..	·86	1·67	2·66	·72	1·97	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Uttankarai ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·55	2·89	1·55	1·78	6·46	3·60	5·01	5·52	2·63	·57	·03	·47	31·08
	1888–89 ..	·40	3·71	1·66	1·87	4·62	9·35	5·29	8·85	1·12	..	..	·75	37·66
	1889–90 ..	·40	1·37	1·56	5·80	3·87	5·56	5·07	·52	1·42	0·42	..	1·24	26·97
	1890–91 ..	·65	4·12	2·11	2·22	5·48	5·24	4·32	2·71	·02	·85	1·05	·65	29·45
	1891–92 ..	·80	·60	2·50	·45	·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shevaroy Hills.	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·92	6·79	6·56	6·77	12·62	7·69	10·44	8·73	4·26	·51	·13	·90	67·36
	1888–89 ..	2·50	5·85	10·55	5·10	8·25	12·45	8·05	12·35	3·25	0·40	..	·45	69·20
	1889–90 ..	3·85	4·55	8·48	16·75	10·90	16·00	9·05	0·90	2·85	0·75	..	1·00	75·08
	1890–91 ..	2·80	4·45	5·25	6·65	8·05	5·00	5·85	8·75	0·55	0·60	3·18	1·45	52·58
	1891–92 ..	1·30	0·60	3·35	3·55	·40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total (District).	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·88	4·22	2·08	2·69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1888–89 ..	·90	3·61	2·75	1·58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1889–90 ..	2·73	2·82	2·55	5·62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1890–91 ..	1·32	3·62	2·59	2·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1891–92 ..	·86	·96	2·61	1.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

It will be seen from the above that the minor showers in April 1891, which are not due to the influence of any of the monsoons, were about the average in all the taluks.

In May 1891, however, about the end of which the south-west monsoon usually bursts with an average of 4·22 inches, there was little or no rain in Salem, Námakal, Dharmapuri, Hosúr, Uttankarai and even on the Shevaroy Hills. In Atúr, Tiruchengód and Tirupatúr, the rains were much less than, and in Krishnagiri about, the average for the respective taluks. The total average rainfall of the district was only ·96 of an inch against 3·62 in 1890–91, 2·82 in 1889–90, 3·61 in 1888–89 and 4·22, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In June 1891, the rainfall was above the averages of the respective taluk in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód, Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, and below it in the Atúr and Dharmapuri taluks and on the Shevaroys. The total average rainfall of the district was 2·61 inches against 2·08, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In July 1891, the rainfall was considerably less than the average in all the taluks except Atúr, Dharmapuri and Hosúr, where it was about half the average.

In August 1891 (up to 22nd), except in Atúr, Dharmapuri, Hosúr and Tirupatúr where the rainfall was between 1 and 2 inches, there was little or no rain in the remaining taluks.

5. Thus the position may be summed up by saying that the south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district, and that it has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankari division and the Tirupatúr divisions, it has followed three in different monsoons. In the rest of the district the position is not materially aggravated by former bad seasons.

6. *Cultivation.*—Statement A, herewith submitted, compares the occupied area, cultivation (1st crop), &c., in each of the faslis 1296 to 1300.

The extent cultivated in fasli 1300, 1890--91, in many instances exceeds even that in the last favorable year, viz., fasli 1296, and is not of itself an index to the state of the season. The rains of June, which were nearly normal, led to the ploughing and sowing of the land. But owing to the subsequent failure of the rains, the crop on all the lands so sown, except those under wells, has been lost and the ryots are only the poorer by the loss of their seed. The crop has now been totally lost on all dry lands sown prior to, and in the early part of, July.

From the amount of remissions granted, however, it may be seen that the season in the faslis from 1298 has been bad in the Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks.

7. A statement B, showing the cultivation in each month of the five years ending 1890–91 and in each month up to July of the current year in each taluk, is submitted. The following is an abstract thereof :—

Taluks.	—	April.		May.		June.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91 ..	7,763	1,377	11,982	1,122	25,263	1,241
	1891–92	2,357	921	3,685	768	18,695	986
Atúr	Average	852	1,024	409	564	1,852	1,437
	1891–92	312	413	207	174	2,925	1,573
Námakal	Average	1,818	1,292	2,505	1,250	8,007	2,166
	1891–92	1,259	1,068	2,576	2,554	4,755	1,668
Tiruchengód	Average	2,722	1,173	16,565	1,826	22,189	1,200
	1891–92	5,172	993	4,347	366	30,997	1,592
Hosúr	Average	681	2,053	332	371	5,004	676
	1891–92	3	6	1	6	..	..
Dharmapuri	Average	581	607	9,340	1,335	31,393	1,605
	1891–92	713	736	2,142	987	19,673	1,037
Krishnagiri	Average	540	467	1,835	936	17,010	755
	1891–92	28	132	243	675	..	..
Tirupatúr	Average	837	268	437	345	12,339	960
	1891–92	7	9	1	2	..	..
Uttankarai	Average	315	220	203	105	7,041	472
	1891–92	6	19	1	6	1,178	50
Total ..	Average	16,109	8,551	43,608	7,854	130,098	10,512
	1891–92	9,857	4,297	13,203	5,538	78,223	6,906

Taluks.	—	July.		Total.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
		9	10	11	12
		Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91 ..	44,692	1,440	89,700	5,180
	1891–92	46,956	2,510	71,693	5,185
Atúr	Average	6,880	2,462	9,993	5,487
	1891–92	726	572	4,170	2,732
Námakal	Average	19,082	3,397	31,412	8,105
	1891–92	5,449	1,948	14,039	7,238
Tiruchengód	Average	30,256	404	71,732	4,603
	1891–92	41,648	981	82,164	3,932
Hosúr	Average	16,143	1,384	22,160	4,484
	1891–92	10,948	4,132	10,952	4,144
Dharmapuri	Average	16,115	1,195	57,429	4,742
	1891–92	25,984	1,387	48,512	4,147
Krishnagiri	Average	33,706	2,007	53,091	4,165
	1891–92	37,478	2,808	37,749	3,615
Tirupatúr	Average	21,652	904	35,265	2,477
	1891–92	30,429	2,397	30,437	2,408
Uttankarai	Average	14,873	484	22,432	1,351
	1891–92	21,942	843	23,127	918
Total ..	Average	203,399	13,677	393,214	40,594
	1891–92	221,560	17,578	322,843	34,319

The average cultivation of the five years ending 1890–91 amounts to 1,221,536 acres under dry and 125,708 acres under wet, and the average cultivation up to the end of July on the average of the same five years is 393,214 acres under dry and 40,594 acres under wet. The cultivation in the current year up to the end of July amounts to only 322,843 acres under dry, and 34,319 acres under wet, or 82·10 and 84·54 per cent., respectively, of the average figures. The decrease occurs in all the taluks except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai. In Tiruchengód the timely rains in May and June seem to have induced many ryots to cultivate their lands in the hope of getting further rains which unfortunately disappointed them. In Uttankarai the increase is small. The amount of cultivation under the south-west monsoon is, it will be seen, large under normal conditions in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and the taluks of the sub-division. In the former taluks, a large amount of dry cultivation is also made in the months of August, September, October and November. But as quite

half of the total cultivation made up to July must have been lost, it will be seen that the failure of the south-west monsoon in those taluks following seasons such as I have shown above must be a more serious matter than even in other parts of the district.

8. *Prices.*—The following statement compares the number of seers of 80 tolas of grain and other articles of produce per rupee in each of the years 1887–88 to 1890–91. Particulars for the years 1887–88 to 1889–90 have been taken from Board's Proceedings, dated 20th September 1890, No. 283 :—

Names of grains.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	April 1891.	May 1891.	June 1891.	July 1891.	Price on 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 1st sort	14·7	13·6	12·2	10·72	10·35	10·34	10·05	9·69	..
Rice, 2nd sort	16·3	15·2	14·0	12·47	12·1	12·0	11·6	11·3	10·62
Paddy, 1st sort	25·0	23·4	21·0	18·63	18·22	17·89	17·58	16·85	..
Paddy, 2nd sort	27·7	25·9	23·4	20·92	20·22	20·16	19·35	18·55	..
Cholum	30·3	25·9	26·0	22·39	21·5	21·2	21·3	19·3	17·97
Cumbu	29·5	26·2	26·3	23·39	21·4	20·7	20·2	19·5	18·19
Ragi	34·0	31·7	31·5	28·27	25·8	25·9	24·43	22·6	21·34
Varagu	36·6	33·5	32·1	30·64	26·22	25·99	25·52	24·65	..
Horse-gram	30·9	29·9	23·2	21·10	24·23	23·88	23·25	21·88	..
Salt	14·2	12·7	12·8	12·85	13·1	13·1	13·1	13·12	..

It will be seen that with the exception of horse-gram and salt, the prices of all the articles have, year after year, risen gradually, owing to a succession of bad seasons. The rise is most perceptible in 1890–91. The present prices are considerably higher than the average of 1890–91, but they are not unprecedented, as from the book containing the "prices and wages in India" published by the Government of India, it is observed that prices higher than the present prices ruled in the district in certain years as shown below :—

Years.	Rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.
1866	10·3	17·7	16·1	16·5
1867	8·	12·3	11·5	12·5
1868	10·5	16·8	16·3	17·4
1869	..	20·1	..	..
1876	..	19·28	..	..
1877	6·95	8·31	8·22	7·51
1878	8·35	12·08	11·18	11·55
1879	10·3	17·45	15·82	16·38

The above years are, of course, famine years, or years immediately succeeding such years.

9. A statement C, showing the average prices at each price-registering-station since 1888–89, is submitted. The following statement gives particulars for the taluk kasbah stations :—

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 2nd sort.								
Atúr	16·31	15·09	12·84	13·16	12·78	12·22	11·64	11·28
Salem	13·93	13·16	12·53	11·28	11·28	10·90	10·49	10·34
Hosúr	14·64	12·99	12·08	11·88	11·34	11·88	11·34	10·80
Dharmapuri	15·82	14·54	12·72	12·85	13·17	12·85	11·43	10·80
Krishnagiri	15·90	14·30	12·81	11·98	12·63	10·91	10·99	11·07
Námakal	15·93	14·73	12·98	13·30	13·11	12·82	11·87	11·75
Tiruchengód	14·63	13·79	11·76	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	10·34
Uttankarai	15·20	13·32	11·48	10·92	10·92	10·45	10·92	9·74
Tirupatúr	14·23	13·34	12·07	10·73	10·45	10·26	10·23	9·50

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Ragi.								
Atúr	22·95	28·71	25·58	24·79	22·40	23·25	22·54	20·52
Salem	30·38	38·20	27·27	24·79	25·13	23·94	21·89	20·94
Hosúr	39·39	42·15	36·49	32·98	32·98	31·04	27·16	27·16
Dharmapuri	31·75	32·67	29·95	27·93	27·64	26·09	24·05	21·34
Krishnagiri	31·16	31·10	28·22	25·51	26·28	22·40	21·34	20·37
Námakal	29·74	29·30	25·01	24·61	23·35	21·84	20·54	20·52
Tiruchengód	26·17	26·87	24·59	22·09	21·84	21·84	19·10	20·52
Uttankarai	32·67	29·66	25·80	23·52	23·52	23·52	21·00	20·16
Tirupatúr	30·88	27·84	25·89	21·92	21·84	21·33	19·81	20·58
Cholum.								
Atúr	25·39	26·92	22·11	21·11	20·93	24·57	20·69	18·20
Salem	25·81	25·75	21·87	20·93	21·11	20·93	18·65	18·20
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	30·92	28·90	28·26	25·92	24·08	22·24	21·80	..
Námakal	26·24	28·17	21·19	21·09	21·00	21·53	18·95	20·02
Tiruchengód	24·35	25·11	21·27	19·58	18·95	18·69	16·25	17·29
Uttankarai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr	23·09	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cumbu.								
Atúr	27·91	27·70	25·22	22·96	21·81	22·30	22·04	20·50
Salem	22·89	24·22	23·59	21·32	21·32	21·15	20·42	19·68
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	29·78	36·28	26·60	22·56	22·37	20·49	19·83	17·86
Námakal	28·05	28·47	21·06	20·65	18·71	17·82	17·63	18·04
Tiruchengód	22·13	25·27	22·72	21·30	20·73	20·00	18·45	18·04
Uttankarai	30·92	26·58	24·80	22·68	22·68	22·68	20·25	17·82
Tirupatúr	27·57	25·43	22·76	20·41	19·44	19·19	17·82	15·39

It will be seen from the above that the price of second-sort rice is considerably higher in Tirupatúr (9·50) and Uttankarai (9·74) than in the other taluks—Salem and Tiruchengód following them; that the price of ragi, the standard grain for the district, rules highest in Uttankarai; that cholum, the price of which in July at Tiruchengód was 16·25 seers, has since fallen to 17·29 seers the rupee, and that it is the highest at which it sells; and that cumbu sells as high as 15·39 and 17·82 seers the rupee in Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, respectively.

10. A statement D showing the average monthly prices is submitted.

11 The staple grains of the district are second-sort rice, ragi, cholum and cumbu, and their scarcity rates as fixed in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137, are compared below with the prevailing rates :—

Staple grains.	Average price during the famine year 1877.	Normal rate, *i.e.*, average of three years ending 1875-76.	Scarcity rate sanctioned for the district in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137.	Prices for the week ending 22nd August 1891.	Percentage of rise over the normal rates.	Percentage below the scarcity rates.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	7·3	14·30	8·5	10·62	25·73	24·94
Ragi	9·2	27·52	13·5	21·34	22·46	58·07
Cholum	8·75	23·25	11·5	18·19	21·76	58·17
Cumbu	9·3	25·92	13·0	17·97	30·67	38·23

It will be seen from the above that while the price of ragi and cholum shows a rise of less than 25 per cent. over the normal rates, that of rice shows a rise of 25·73 per cent. and cumbu 30·67 per cent. The large rise in the price of cumbu is due to the entire failure of the cumbu crop sown in May and June owing to want of rain in July and August. The price of ragi which is the standard grain for this district is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate.

12. Having given particulars for the whole district regarding rainfall, cultivation and prices, I proceed to review the state of each taluk as reported to me by the Tahsildars. The Personal Assistant Deputy Collector has submitted a report on the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk and the General Charge Deputy Collector on the Námakal division. Copies of their reports are submitted.

13. *Atúr.*—The rainfall of one inch on the 17th of August has improved the condition of the standing crops, viz., ragi, cumbu, indigo and paddy. No agricultural operations are in progress. Ryots wait for further rains. Pasture is scanty. Water-supply is insufficient.

14. *Krishnagiri.*—The standing crops, viz., cumbu, ragi, samai and gingelly-oil seeds are fading for want of rain. Pasture is scarcely available ; in some parts cattle are dying. Water-supply is insufficient for agricultural operations. It is obtained with difficulty in some parts for drinking purposes.

15. *Tirupatúr.*—The standing crops are cumbu, varagu, cholum, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), castor-oil plants, sugarcane and paddy. Those in the vicinity of good wells and under the Pálár irrigation are in a somewhat good condition. In some places cumbu is lost ; in other places it is withering for want of rain. Ragi and samai were sown after the rains in the past week. A greater portion of land is lying waste for want of rain. Pasture is scanty. Drinking-water supply is defective in some places.

16. *Hosúr.*—The standing crops, viz., ragi, avarai (beans), cumbu and gingelly have improved by the recent fall of rain. Paddy and sugarcane are in good condition in some places. Ragi and avarai (beans) have been sown. Pasture and fodder are insufficient. Deaths among cattle are reported. Cattle are being taken to forest parts for grazing purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is sufficient ; for agricultural operations it is insufficient.

17. *Dharmapuri.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, cumbu, varagu, samai and ragi are in good condition. Paddy and gingelly were harvested ; the outturn was from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy, ragi, samai, varagu, avarai (beans) and oil-seeds are sown. Pasture is insufficient. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes, but it is insufficient for agricultural operations. The Tahsildar states that if there be no rain within four or five days it is expected that the crops will begin to fade. I have since heard that there was an inch of rain at Palcode on the night of the 23rd.

18. *Námakal.*—The crops under the Cauvery channels are in an excellent condition. The crops under wells, except in the Kahilakurichi firka, where the supply in wells is insufficient, are in a fair condition. The crops on other lands, viz., cholum, ragi, cumbu, thenai and cotton have improved by the rainfall, on the 15th and 17th August, of five and two tenths respectively. Lands are being ploughed up everywhere, and in parts where the recent rains fell varagu, samai and cumbu are being sown. Pasture is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts and at the foot of the Kollimalais. Fodder is exported to the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks. Water-supply for drinking purposes is just sufficient in the Shendamangalam firka, but insufficient elsewhere. Water-supply for agricultural operations is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts. Cumbu and cholum have been harvested in some places ; the outturn was from 4 to 12 annas. Paddy is being harvested under the Cauvery channels, and the outturn is from 12 to 16 annas.

19. *Uttankarai.*—The standing crops, cumbu, avarai (beans), varagu, samai and thovarai (dholl), are withering for want of rain. Cattle suffer from want of pasture. Scarcity of water is greatly felt. Any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit the standing crops, but may help to sow paddy, cumbu, &c. Harvests and other agricultural operations are *nil.* Cholera is prevalent in parts of the taluk.

A statement (E) showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 24,045 acres were cultivated against the three years' average of 18,646 acres and against the five years' average of 23,783 acres. The increase of cultivation over the three years' average is due to the fact that in those years cultivation was much less than in the two previous years. Of the area cropped, viz., 24,045 acres, cumbu, cholum and ragi cover more than half. The information furnished by the Tahsildar on the state of the season is meagre, and the Head Assistant Collector will be asked to submit a detailed report as early as possible.

20. *Salem.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, ragi, pani varagu, cumbu, samai, cholum, thenai, gingelly, castor-oil seeds, thovarai (dholl), avarai (beans), ground-nut and varagu in Mecheri, Omalúr, Salem and Karipatti firkas have already withered or are fading. The crops under wells in the Rasipur, Salem and Karipatti firkas, are in a fair condition. Thenai, cumbu and varagu in the Rasipur firka are being harvested, outturn being from 4 to 8 annas. Agricultural operations are at a standstill except under wells in some parts of the Rasipur firka. If there be rain before the 5th September, cholum, varagu, cumbu, ground-nut, avarai (beans), thovarai, (dholl) and castor-oil seeds in some villages and crops under wells will revive. No crops in the Mecheri firka, however, will be benefited. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, the standing crops will not be benefited except those under wells having a fair supply, which may thrive and yield an outturn of not more than 8 annas. If rain falls within the 5th September, cholum, perum cumbu, ragi, karunjamai, tobacco, white thenai, horse-gram, black gram, Bengal gram and green gram may be sown ; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, pani varagu, cholum, perum cumbu, horse-gram, Bengal gram and black gram may be sown or transplanted ; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. The Tahsildar reports that small farmers and agricultural labourers suffer much because they find no labour, that some people eat aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits, that cattle suffer much from want of fodder, and that some of them have actually died. Scarcity of water even for drinking purposes for men and cattle is very keenly felt except in some villages of the Rasipur, Karipatti and Salem firkas. Almost all the tanks and streams are empty and supply in wells is diminishing.

21. The following facts are gathered from the Personal Assistant Deputy Collector's report on the state of season in the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk :—

There are 70 tanks in the division. Most of them are empty and none has received any decent supply. There was literally no cultivation under tanks. Under only one tank (Gollapatti) this has been commenced, and seedlings have been raised under a few others. There is no water in the great majority of the wells used for agricultural purposes. The wells used for drinking purposes are, except in a few cases which do not, however, supply the requisite quantity of water, nearly dried up. The loudest complaint which one meets with is as regards the drinking-water supply, and drought seems to threaten man and beast more than any other, foreboding serious alarm. The standing crops are samai, cumbu, cholum, gingelly, ragi, varagu, pani varagu, castor-oil seeds, thenai, thovarai (dholl) and avarai (beans). Pani varagu is lost everywhere. Kullan cumbu appears to have been harvested in some places and yielded a two-anna crop. In some places it is a hopeless crop and stalks are drying up. Even immediate rainfall will hardly benefit the crop. The crop is in many places cut and used for fodder. Gingelly is almost lost. Ragi, which is the most considerable staple grain, is nowhere seen to any appreciable extent. In some places it has been eaten by green worms. In some villages ragi seedlings raised for transplantation have been partly lost. Varagu is in a fair condition. Castor-oil seeds and thovarai (dholl) are in a good condition. Perum cumbu, cholum, samai, ragi, and thenai are fading. The Deputy Collector writing on the 6th August considered that these crops would revive if rain fell in a fortnight, but there has been no fall of rain worth mentioning since. The extent cultivated is about 30 per cent. of that cultivated in fasli 1296. The year is worse than most of the preceding years in which rainfall was deficient, and the country presents a serious and an alarming aspect. About 8,000 kandagams of ragi and 1,200 of paddy are held in stock exclusive of the stock held by the ryots for their private consumption. The markets are sufficiently supplied. In no shandy or market has any complaint been received or known as to the deficiency of stock for sale to intending purchasers. The grain trade is nowhere

lax and the supply is equal to the demand, which, however, is on the increase owing to the absence of harvest of the early crop which should have been had by this time. Prices are on the increase. There has, however, been no sudden rise, but, so far as the dry grains are concerned, the present prices are 60 per cent. higher than those which prevailed in the harvest time in a good year and about 40 per cent. higher than the price which prevailed in the last harvest time. The prices have not reached any alarming stage, but are of course very dear. About 40,000 people purchase grain in markets and about 60,000 live upon their stock, which will carry them from one month to one year and above. In some places there is pasture and fodder which are being used up rapidly. In other places they are either quite insufficient or scarce. In some places roots of grass are dug up and used for cattle. Small and poor pattadars are using even their thatch for the cattle and, wherever procurable, leaves of margosa, palmyra, unja, palai and other trees are being utilized as fodder. Cattle are brought in numbers for sale at markets and their price is falling. The classes that are suffering much are small pattadars and coolies of the Pariah and Chuckler castes. About 10,000 persons are out of their usual employment, agricultural operations being at a standstill. Some of them are employed by well-to-do ryots in improving their lands; some cut and sell firewood, grass, &c., in towns; some who could obtain credit take loans and live upon them; and some have resorted to towns in hopes of finding cooly there. No serious complaint of starvation has been received, but there is no doubt that difficulties and sufferings exist almost everywhere; some make up their food by substituting gruel for solid food with the addition of aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits. More care is taken by people to spare all means available for purchase of food. Notwithstanding all this, the people are hopeful of rain under the north-east monsoon. The Deputy Collector considers that it is too early to start any relief works, that we may wait till September, and that if rain still holds off measures of relief would then be very necessary, the ordinary works being quite sufficient for the present. The Deputy Collector states that the country west of Suramangalam and south of Salem-Omalúr road is also reported to be similar in condition to the Omalúr division. A statement F showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 75,179 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the 3 years' average of 95,232 acres. Cholum, cumbu and ragi cover more than half the area. The extent on which crops have been harvested up to date and the outturn are given below:—

Crops.	16 annas.	8 annas.	4 annas.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Cholum	329	858	448	1,635
Cumbu	8	136	1,245	1,389
Ragi	4	68	16	88
Other pulses, &c.	25	208	70	303
Gingelly-oil seeds	20	166	239	425
Topes	89	66	54	209
Total ..	475	1,502	2,072	4,049

22. *Tiruchengód.*—Standing crops are cholum, cumbu, ragi, samai, thenai, castor-oil seeds, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), tattapayar, cotton and varagu. All these crops, except those under wells which have water, are withering or have already withered, and any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit them. Agricultural operations are at a standstill. The first gingelly crop had failed. Cholum under wells has been harvested in some places. Outturn was from 4 to 8 annas. Cattle look lean and emaciated from want of fodder. Palmyra and margosa leaves and thatch are used for fodder. The General Deputy Collector has reported that people sell their jewels, &c., to buy the necessaries of life, that a few families of chucklers have left their homes in search of labour, that it appears that there is no stock of food-grains either in the villages or with the merchants, that food-grains are imported from other stations, that drinking-water scarcity is the most keenly felt want in this taluk, and that landless and labouring classes are in urgent need of employment.

A statement G showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 86,095 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the three years' average of 72,614 acres. The increase is due, as already stated, to the timely rains in May and June, which, however, were not followed by further rains as expected. Cumbu covers more than 60,000 acres. Particulars of harvests and outturn are not reported. The standing cumbu crops are reported to have almost withered.

23. The statistics of rainfall, cultivation and prices, and the review of the taluks given above will show that the only taluks giving cause for anxiety at present are Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, where there has been a succession of bad seasons since 1888–89. The whole of the Salem taluk, however, connot be said to be seriously affected. It is only the western portion, viz., the tract of country lying to the west of the Tirumanimuthar, that is so. The country on that side of the river is on a high level and is always the first to be affected by bad seasons. The most generally felt wants at present are drinking water and fodder. That the first should fail is not to be wondered at considering the almost complete cessation of rains since December last, for any rain which has since fallen has been in local and partial showers. This of course has brought with it a complete failure of pasture.

24. With a view to relieve, as far as our resources allow, the first want, I have, in my memorandum, dated 7th August 1891, No. 1284-L.F., requested Presidents of the Taluk Boards, Salem, Námakal, and Tirupatúr to take early steps to improve, in all legitimate ways, the existing drinking-water supply, either by sinking new wells or deepening and improving existing wells, in those localities where the pressure is most severely felt, and have informed them that for this purpose the District Board will be prepared to consider favorably applications for extra allotments. The budget grant, including subsequent allotments, for improvement of water-supply in the three Local Fund taluks of Salem, Námakal and Tirupatúr, which include the affected localities, amounts to Rs. 3,010, of which Rs. 1,096 have been spent up to July (inclusive). The Salem Taluk Board has since sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for improvement of water-supply, and the Námakal Taluk Board has applied for an allotment of Rs. 1,487 for deepening the bed of, and improving, the Kamalalayam tank. No intimation of the steps taken to improve water-supply has been received from the President of the Tirupatúr Taluk Board. I am asking the Presidents of the Taluk Boards concerned to furnish me with a weekly statement of the progress made in sinking and improving wells. I believe, however, that estimates have been called for and submitted in most instances in Salem and Tiruchengód, and that considerable aid has been already or will immediately be given.

25. With regard to pasture, on receiving mahazars from certain villagers in the Salem taluk requesting that their cattle be admitted to grazing in forest reserves (with reference to the Board's proposed amendment of section 98 of the Famine Code—Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1890, No. 274), I asked the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, in my letter, dated 8th August 1891, Ref. on No. 2828-Eng., to let me know what forests could be opened to grazing or in which the grazing rates could be lowered to serve the Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks. With reference to the Conservator's letter in reply, dated 17th August 1891, No. 1353, a notice has been issued to the effect that during the prevalence of drought grazing of cattle and sheep but not goats will be permitted free in all the reserved forests and reserved lands of the Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks, except certain specially protected blocks, subject to the proviso that, if any persons in charge of, or connected with, the cattle grazing, are found destroying trees or shrub growth either by hacking or wrenching off with their hands, the concession will at once be cancelled as regards all cattle in their charge. Nothing more can be done in the matter.

26. The population principally affected may be divided into ryots and agricultural labourers. The former are eager for loans, and it is of urgent importance, at this critical period, to push on the digging of wells. The special well rules

under section 10 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, have been extended to this district under Government notification, dated 1st August 1891, No. 346, published at page 803, of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th August 1891. The Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód state that applications for loans are being received every day in large numbers, and the same is very likely the case in the other affected taluks. I myself, yesterday, at Chinnappampatti, received 15 applications for loans. I have issued very stringent orders to the Tahsildars to make special arrangements to see that the applications are disposed of promptly. I am sure that the number of applications will become so large as to be beyond the power of the ordinary establishment to inquire into and dispose of as promptly as is required, and I request that two additional 1st-class Revenue Inspectors, for each of the three affected taluks, may be sanctioned to inquire into, and report on, the applications. The additional Revenue Inspectors will be employed only when it is found that the ordinary establishment is unable to do the work required promptly. No other measures are now necessary to alleviate the pressure upon the ryots who will, on the whole, with the usual food stocks with them (I do not agree with the General Charge Deputy Collector in considering that there is no grain in stock) manage, without very much stress, until the next harvest.

27. Labourers are of two kinds, viz., those who are employed permanently, and those who are so, only, casually.

28. I understand that the permanent labourers will be fed and kept on by the ryots until the time of the north-east monsoon, or at least until the end of September, in the hope that the monsoon will be favorable. If then, the rains hold off, the ryots will retain their resources for themselves, and turn the labourers adrift, it will then be time enough to take measures for their relief. No cases of permanent labourers having been turned out by the ryots, have, as yet, come to notice.

29. Except the report of the local officers there is no sign of any scarcity of work for the casual labourers. There is no large influx into the town; the returns received from the Superintendent of Police show that only 110 persons have come into the town up to date; there is no noticeable increase of crime, though the General Deputy Collector states that the Police officers find a tendency in the crime, to increase everywhere in the affected parts; the price of ragi is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate; and there is neither cholera nor small-pox in any of the affected taluks except Uttankarai, where a few cases have been reported. At the same time it is certain that the casual labourers are not being now employed by the ryots in the affected tracts nor will they be so, unless there is a decided change in agricultural prospects. There is, I fear, considerable pressure on them just now. Everywhere I go, the pariahs and lower castes come in crowds asking for work. In Sunkari and the north-west of Salem, there has been some rain lately, which has enabled these classes to get a little employment, but if the season does not continue to improve, it is to be feared that soon these men will wander about the country, unless work is provided for them at convenient centres. They have now been practically without employ for two months, and must be getting near the end of their resources. In the course of my present tour, I have come through Omalúr and the northern end of Tiruchengód. I have not seen any signs of actual want or emaciation in the people. The time has not come just yet, I think, for relief works, but for the present, *i.e.*, until the end of September, when a change is expected in the prospects of the season, the ordinary road works, minor irrigation works, village site improvements and deepening of wells, will be quite sufficient. Steps are being taken to provide works of the kind wherever needed. I would sum up the situation thus:—

30. If we have a bumper north-east monsoon continuing steadily from September onwards, which will give a good crop and fill the wells so that work may continue through the hot weather, no relief of any kind will be necessary.

If we have only a moderate monsoon and moderate crop so that work may not be easily had, in the hot weather, there will be distress then, which may need relief.

If the rain fails to come well through September and October and the north-east monsoon fails, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts of this

district, gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon. If the rain holds off and the season does not continue to improve during the first half of September, it will be necessary at once to prepare to open relief works, which must be started by 1st October at latest.

31. Thus, if the north-east monsoon rains hold off in September, it will be necessary to adopt measures of relief about the beginning of October in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks and, perhaps, afterwards, in the Uttankarai taluk.

32. No reports of distress reach me from Pennagaram. I am calling for a special report from the Sub-Collector as to the condition of that tract.

33. In the event of its being found necessary to adopt relief measures, I propose that relief be administered by means of (1) works, and (2) gratuitous relief in poor-houses only.

34. (1) *Works.*—The following statement gives particulars of the programme of professional and civil agency works for 1891–92 (Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 478):—

Affected taluks.	Local Fund Works.				Minor Irrigation Works.				Total.			
	Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.	
			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.
		Rs.				Rs.				Rs.		
Salem	6	83,090	1,108	1,108	79	23,860	318	318	96	1,20,650	1,609	1,609
	Municipal Works.											
	11	13,700	183	183	..	..	..	..				
Tiruchengód	2	57,801	770	770	77	39,444	526	526	79	97,245	1,296	1,296
Uttankarai	1	23,482	313	313	176	17,380	232	232	177	40,862	545	545
Local Fund works extending over more than one taluk ..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191	..	..	..	..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191
Total ..	29	3,42,446	4,565	4,565	332	80,684	1,076	1,076	361	4,23,130	5,641	5,641

35. Since the submission of the above programme to the Board, I called upon the Local Fund Engineer to submit estimates for the repair of certain roads selected by me in the affected localities, and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód taluks to submit estimates for the repair of three minor irrigation works in each firka of their taluks situated in convenient centres, so that the works might readily be taken up in case of emergency.

36. The following statement gives particulars of works so selected and for which estimates are ready on hand:—

Taluks.	Firka.	Particulars of works selected.	Estimated cost.
Tiruchengód	Elur	Repair of 10 minor irrigation works, being tanks, anicuts and channels	11,362
	Sankaridrug	Repair of 2 works, do. do. ..	1,500
	Yadapadi	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	1,910
	Tiruchengód	Do. 3 works, do. do. ..	1,706
Salem	Salem	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	760
	Rasipur	Do. do. do. do. ..	905
	Omalúr	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,210
	Mecheri	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,040
	Kanpatti	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,260
Salem and Tiruchengód.	....	9 road works	29,240
		Total ..	50,893

37. As I found, on a perusal of the list of professional agency works communicated in Government Order, dated 26th May 1891, No. 454, that none of the

works therein mentioned as available for famine relief in this district would be of the slightest use to the west and south of the district, I have, in my letter, dated 1st August 1891, Reference on No. 1466-B and G, requested the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to call for, and have in hand, some project to benefit the Tiruchengód and Salem (west) taluks, as well as Uttankarai, so that they may be available at short notice. It is not known what works the Chief Engineer has selected.

38. I have also asked the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore division, to postpone giving out, on contract, all available works in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, as long as possible.

39. Besides, on the receipt of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450, advising the Collectors of districts in which the position is critical to submit programmes of famine relief works and to get estimates ready at once, I called upon the Tahsildars of Salem, Tiruchengód, Námakal, Uttankarai and Tirupatúr, to submit a general list of major and minor irrigation works which could be taken up in their taluks in the event of relief works being required therein.

40. A list of irrigation works has been received from the Tahsildar of Uttankarai; particulars are given below:—

Taluk.	Firka.	Particulars of works.	Estimated cost.
			Rs.
Uttankarai ..	Uttankarai ..	2 Major irrigation works	6,000
		14 Minor do.	8,200
	Karúr	5 Major do.	26,000
	Morapur	13 Minor do.	7,700
		10 Do. do.	6,100
		Total ..	54,000

41. The other Tahsildars are also sending in similar lists and are preparing estimates.

42. Lists of minor irrigation works in the prescribed form will be submitted for sanction shortly. The works will be commenced only if it is considered necessary to adopt relief measures.

43. I understand, however, that there will be considerable difficulty in finding suitable irrigation or road repairs in the Tiruchengód taluk. I am in correspondence with the Executive Engineer about the irrigation works. The difficulty arises, as almost all are in repairs, that the tank restoration party having just left the taluk.

44. If relief works are to be started I propose that all the works should be carried out by the Public Works Department, and that *no* relief work should be executed under civil agency.

45. Such works are mostly a pleasant picnic for the labourers, who are employed, at their own doors, and who are not required really to work, and are mostly but a pleasant lounge-a-way of spending a happy day, and being paid by Government for it. Such works as clearing village-site, &c., were suggested to me in a mahazar, at Omalúr, but when I asked if the able-bodied labourers would go six miles to stone-breaking on a road, none would go. I consider that in the early days of distress, when a test of the necessity of relief is really wanted real work should be exacted from all applicants till severe famine is demonstrated.

46. The employment of only professional agency is in accordance with the intention of Government in paragraph 10 of G.O., dated 19th December 1890, No. 1026, Revenue, communicated in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1891, No. 38, which, I consider, should be strictly carried out. I request that arrangements may be made so that the Public Works Department staff of this district may be strengthened at a very short notice, and that that department may be ordered to undertake the supervision and execution of the relief works opened.

47. (2) *Gratuitous relief in Poor-houses.*—In regard to the administration of relief in poor-houses, I am in correspondence with the Divisional officers concerned

regarding the selection of sites for poor-houses, and shall, when the time arrives, when gratuitous relief should be given, construct poor-houses with the previous sanction of the Board and Government, and make arrangements to grant such relief in accordance with the instructions on the subject in the Famine Code. I consider that the relief should be restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour and have none to support them, and that the relief should be given in the shape of cooked food to be eaten in the poor-house.

48. To carry out relief operations, it will be necessary that the Divisional officers of Salem and Námakal and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód should be relieved of their magisterial work, since Salem and Tiruchengód are in different divisions, and since it is necessary, under the Famine Code, that the Divisional officers should take charge of relief, I think one 1st-class Magistrate might be put in charge of the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the two divisions. As soon as relief is started Special Sub-Magistrates must be appointed in Salem and Tiruchengód to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. The relief operations in the Uttankarai taluk may be left in charge of the Head Assistant Collector and Tahsildar as it is not likely that there will be at present any necessity to carry out operations on an extended scale, in this taluk.

49. I request that necessary sanction may be obtained for the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and Magistrate to take the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the Deputy Collectors, who may be placed in charge of the relief operations, and of two additional Sub-Magistrates on Rs. 100 each, to relieve the Salem and Tiruchengód Tahsildars of their magisterial work.

50. The additional Sub-Magistrates will be appointed by me and application for the posting of a Deputy Collector made by telegram, when the need for them arises.

51. I am in camp inspecting the affected tracts in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks.

Resolution—dated 8th September 1891, No. 560.

In his very carefully prepared letter read above, which will be submitted for the information of Government, the Collector reports on the condition and prospects of the Salem district, and, as regards the rainfall of the current year, summarises it as follows:— "The south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district and has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankarai division and the Tirupatúr division, it has followed three indifferent monsoons." In other parts of the district the position is not aggravated by previous bad seasons. That the rainfall up to date in the current season has been very deficient is shown by the following abstract:—

Taluks or stations.	October to December.		January to March.		April and May.		June to August.		April to September.
	Average.	1890.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.
Tirupatúr	12·83	6·85	0·67	1·20	4·92	2·54	10·51	5·13	21·67
Krishnagiri	10·74	17·46	1·03	2·35	4·76	3·15	9·54	4·39	19·75
Hosúr	11·85	13·30	0·94	1·43	5·23	0·38	8·54	8·67	18·35
Dharmapuri	11·07	17·68	1·19	1·60	5·32	1·84	8·39	6·50	18·42
Pennagaram	11·55	7·20	1·01	0·65	5·53	1·30	9·64	4·07	19·65
Uttankarai	12·07	5·20	0·98	1·40	4·10	0·45	9·89	4·85	19·73
Harur	13·08	8·93	1·29	3·70	3·26	2·25	9·06	2·41	16·50
Tiruchengód	9·89	12·55	0·64	1·45	4·64	2·00	6·73	3·60	15 63
Sankaridrug	10·89	4·20	0·77	1·05	5·13	2·50	8·91	4·60	18·02
Omalúr	10·08	8·03	0·71	1·55	4·09	1·50	10·67	3·59	18·79
Salem	12·13	7·68	1·19	1·69	7·15	2·38	13·89	6·89	27·70
Rasipur	11·34	7·05	0·60	1·50	4·13	3·00	10·66	5·35	18·10
Atúr	14·35	10·00	1·36	4·18	5·43	2·25	8·88	3·95	19·91
Námakal	9·78	12·12	0·69	2·25	5·44	1·20	6·48	4·15	15·17
Yercaud	21·05	15·15	1·49	5·23	8·01	1·90	23·51	10·15	40·22

Excepting in Krishnagiri, the usual heavy pre-monsoon rainfall of April and May was very deficient, and the south-west monsoon rains since then have been greatly below the average. The latter are not usually heavy during June and July, but in August usually reach to nearly 5 inches, if the Shevaroy Hills be excluded. Up to the end of August the deficiency at the stations in the most affected parts was as noted on the margin in comparison with the normal rainfall during June, July and August, which is also shown. Some rain which fell in these parts subsequent to the date of the Collector's report reduced the deficiency slightly. On the whole the rainfall of August has been very deficient throughout the district, this following on an almost dry July, but a fairly average June, which led to extensive sowings, has caused the loss of nearly all the dry crops sown under that rainfall and the ryots are thus "only the poorer by the loss of their seed."

	Normal rainfall.	Deficiency.
Uttankarai	9·89	5·04
Harur	9·06	6·65
Pennagaram	9·64	5·57
Omalúr	10·67	7 08
Sankaridrug	8·91	4·31
Tiruchengód	6·73	3·13

2. The effect of the fairly good early rains and the results of the subsequent failure may be gathered from the following table in which the actual areas sown during the current year up to July are contrasted with the average for the five years ending 1890–91 :—

Taluks.	April to July. Average. Dry.	April to July. Average. Wet.	April to July. 1891. Dry.	April to July. 1891. Wet.	Average, April to August. Dry.	Average, April to August. Wet.	Average annual total. Dry.	Average annual total. Wet.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Tirupatúr	35,265	2,478	30,437	2,408	48,420	3,894	66,943	10,326
Krishnagiri	53,092	4,165	37,749	3,615	72,116	5,805	119,866	14,609
Hosúr	22,159	4,484	10,952	4,144	56,898	6,133	85,916	9,093
Dharmapuri	57,429	4,742	48,512	4,147	91,107	6,088	170,335	15,523
Uttankarai	22,433	1,351	23,127	918	51,681	2,086	129,559	6,672
Salem	89,700	5,180	71,693	5,185	135,567	6,443	245,592	19,154
Tiruchengód	71,732	4,603	82,164	3,932	113,432	5,613	186,239	11,474
Námakal	31,413	8,106	14,039	7,238	54,505	9,423	107,000	18,619
Atúr	9,993	5,487	4,170	2,732	32,946	7,318	110,086	20,238
District Total ..	393,216	40,596	322,843	34,319	656,672	52,803	1,221,536	125,708

Up to July in the current year the area of sowings only amounted to 82 per cent. under dry and 84·5 per cent. under wet of the average figures. Up to that date in the ordinary course 32 per cent. of the dry crops should have been sown and a rather smaller proportion of the wet crops. It is on the former that the district really depends, the total area of wet crops being only 125,700 acres. In the current year, the decrease occurs in all taluks, except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, and, in the latter, it is small. As already noted, most of these sowings have withered. The long drought in July and August also put a stop for long past to ordinary field operations. The actual area of dry land sown up to August was reported as 420,025 acres against an average, of 656,672 acres, which is nearly 54 per cent. of the total annual sowings. The proportion of these early sowings to the total for the year is normally very high in the marginally-noted taluks, but everywhere the proportion of the early sowings is very large and the situation gives cause for much anxiety. This is especially the case in the Tiruchengód, parts of the Salem, and Dharmapuri and the Uttankarai taluks. Information regarding the two last-named areas is not complete and the Collector will be requested to submit the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors' reports on the localities referred to at an early date. The reports should be made after personal inspection of the threatened tracts.

	Per cent.
Tirupatúr	72
Hosúr	66
Tiruchengód	61

3. Prices have been gradually rising in the district for several years past and in July they had shown a further rise as compared with the average rates for 1890–91. This rise, excepting at Námakal, has been continued up to the last week in August as shown in the following abstract:—

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee. Rice, 2nd sort. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Cholum. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tirupatúr	13·30	11·32	9·50	15·40	27·05	23·49	..	32·06
Krishnagiri	12·83	10·99	10·53	15·66	26·30	21·81	..	30·02
Hosúr	12·63	11·50	10·80	15·34	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	12·86	11·38	10·80	15·61	..	..	..	..
Uttankarai	11·88	11·16	9·74	14·88	..	..	..	..
Salem	11·83	10·77	10·34	14·06	21·18	19·26	18·20	26·69
Tiruchengód	11·70	11·06	10·34	15·07	20·66	16·79	16·38	25·12
Námakal	13·14	12·11	11·28	16·09	21·69	18·43	21·84	28·48
Atúr	12·85	11·64	11·28	15·91	22·11	20·70	17·29	30·40

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee—*cont.* Cumbu. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Ragi. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tirupatúr	23·33	19·13	14·98	27·86	26·68	21·06	19·74	31·43
Krishnagiri	26 60	19·83	16·92	28·73	28·14	21·34	19·40	31·88
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	38·82	29·78	26·19	43·34
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	31·45	24·79	20·37	32·32
Uttankarai	25·61	22·27	17·82	30·91	28·23	23 10	20·16	34·44
Salem	22·48	18·74	19·68	25·93	26·02	21·35	20·52	29·87
Tiruchengód	22·71	18·24	18·04	24·07	24·74	19·31	18·81	26·62
Námakal	20·78	18·13	18·04	26·64	24·48	20·35	20·52	28·61
Atúr	25·23	22·04	20·50	30·39	25·58	22·54	18·81	31·24

Prices are, however, still far below the scarcity rates fixed for the district.

4. Everywhere throughout the district pasture is scanty and insufficient, and cattle are reported to be dying in Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Salem, and in some parts of Tiruchengód and Salem the water-supply for them is only obtainable with difficulty.

Drinking water is also difficult to obtain in the western parts of Salem and in Tiruchengód.

These last two are, the Collector states, the immediately pressing wants, and with a view to meet them he has taken steps to improve the drinking water-supply by improving existing wells, and sinking new ones with Local funds. With a view to supply fodder he has arranged to throw open all reserved forests and reserved lands in Námakal, Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks at reduced fees.

5. For the relief of the population affected, which consists at present of the smaller ryots and agricultural labourers, the Collector states that no special relief works are at present required. For the former it will suffice at present if loans be freely granted for sinking wells. Applications for these are being received in large numbers in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, and in order to dispose of the applications promptly the Collector requests that two extra first-class Revenue Inspectors may be sanctioned for each of the affected taluks. The Board supports this recommendation and the Collector has been authorised to appoint the Inspectors, when necessary, in anticipation of the sanction of Government.

For the agricultural labourers it will, the Collector considers, suffice for the present to put in hand the ordinary Local fund repairs of roads, village site improve-

ments and minor irrigation work repairs, and that there will be enough to provide work for those requiring it until the end of the current month. This is being done wherever needed.

6. As regards the future, the Collector considers that—

(1) If the rains in the future are good, no relief will be required.

(2) If the rains are only moderate, some relief works may be necessary in the next hot weather.

(3) If the September and the north-east monsoon rains fail, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon.

(4) If there be no improvement during the early part of September, and the rains hold off, it will be necessary to open relief works at the beginning of October.

During the week subsequent to the Collector's report, there was a fair fall of rain in the most affected areas, viz., at Omalúr and Sankaridrug.

7. With regard to the provision of work for those who may be in need of relief, the Collector's programme was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 178, and he has since been called upon to revise the list with reference to the instructions conveyed in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450. In his letter now under reference, he shows that the matter is receiving attention and his further report on this matter may be awaited. Estimates should, however, be got ready as rapidly as possible for the Local fund and minor irrigation works alluded to in paragraph 34 of his report.

8. As regards his proposal to entrust all relief works to the Public Works Department, the Board considers that this agency should be utilised to the greatest possible extent, and the Collector should, in correspondence with the Executive Engineer, determine what establishment will be required for the supervision of work on the major irrigation works which he would select for execution on failure of the September rains. In the event of its being necessary, owing to the absence of irrigation works, to employ labour on the breaking of road metal or the stacking of gravel, the Board considers that the Collector should look for assistance to the professional agency of the Local Fund Engineering Department which is accustomed to the carrying out of work of this kind, and which would of course be strengthened for the purpose.

9. The Board will be glad to have an early report as to what works can be selected in the Tiruchengód taluk in the event of distress deepening there.

10. As regards the distribution of gratuitous relief, it will be sufficient at first to establish the kitchens prescribed in section 72 of the Famine Code, sheds being erected where necessary to provide shelter for the homeless.

11. If the season does not improve the Collector desires that a Special Deputy Collector may be appointed for magisterial and appellate work of the Salem and Námakal-Tiruchengód divisions. The Board supports this proposal and also that for the appointment of Special Sub-Magistrates in the taluks alluded to so as to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. These appointments will, in the Board's opinion, only be necessary in the event of a failure of the September and October rains.

12. In the event of a failure of the September rains, or at an earlier date, if the Collector should wish it, the Commissioner will visit the district and consult with the Collector as to whether any measures for the relief of distress can be taken other than those already suggested by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Salem.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Order—dated 23rd September 1891, No. 897, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs generally in the Board's remarks. He considers it desirable that the Commissioner should visit the district and consult with the Collector at once.

2. The action reported in paragraph 5 of the Proceedings is approved.

3. The Government will be prepared to sanction the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and of Special Sub-Magistrates, as recommended in paragraph 11, should necessity arise.

4. The attention of the Public Works Department is invited to paragraphs 37 and 46 of the Collector's letter. The Collector will be asked by wire how many Public Works Department subordinates will be required if relief works have to be opened at the beginning of October.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Works Department (Irrigation).
„ the Public Works Department (Works).
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

90 Copies.

Ms No 10198/91

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd September 1891, No. 897.

B Nr 2630 W & 30-9-91

SEPTEMBER.

B No 2630 W & 30 Sept/91

Season, Salem.

Directing that the Commissioner of Settlement, &c., should visit the district and consult with the Collector at once as to whether any measures for the relief of distress can be taken, and stating that the Government will be prepared to sanction the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and of Special Sub-Magistrate should necessity arise.

Order thereon No 2630 W
dated 30 Sept 1891.

Communicated to the the
S.E. IV Circle and the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation -
with reference to para 37
of the Collector's letter.

As regards para 46, the
requisite inquiries, have,
it is observed, already
been set on foot by the
Chief Engineer P. W. Dept.

(Sd) A.F.B.

S.E. IV Circle
C.E for Irrigation
Rev: Department.

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(Sd) O V B

SE IV circle
C E for I
Revenue Department

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
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Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd September 1891, No. 897.

SEPTEMBER.

Season, Salem.

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No 2630 dated 30 Septr 1891

Communicated to the S E IV circle and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with reference to para 37 of the Collectors letter.

As regards para 46 the requisite enquiries have it is observed already been set on foot by the Chief Engineer

P W Dept

(Sd) O V B

S E IV circle
C E for I
Revenue Department

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th September 1891, No. 560 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., Collector and District Magistrate of Salem, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Salem, 29th August 1891, No. 1858 :—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the state of the season and the condition and prospects of the district.

2. *Rainfall.*—The following statement shows the rainfall of the years 1888–89, 1889–90 and 1890–91, compared with the average of the ten years ending 1887–88 and the average of the six years previous to the famine :—

Rain-registering stations.	Average rainfall of the six years ending 1875–76.		Average of 10 years ending 1887–88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Salem Taluk.										
Salem			29·27	15·46	22·55	11·59	38·49	12·24	21·52	9·37
Rasipur			17·08	12·8?	17·70	8·00	28·75	6·43	17·63	8·55
Omalúr			18·35	10·95	16·68	8·33	25·14	11·76	22·46	9·58
			21·57	13·08	18·97	9·31	30·79	10·14	20·53	9·16
Atúr Taluk.										
Atúr			20·82	16·10	20·35	15·25	24·75	9·75	23·14	14·18
Námakal Taluk.										
Námakal			16·02	13·60	13·26	3·93	29·10	9·28	9·25	15·20
Paramathi			13·29	9·71	9·90	11·58	20·00	7·89	9·65	13·55
			14·65	11·65	11·58	7·75	24·55	8·58	9·45	14·37
Tiruchengód Taluk.										
Tiruchengód			15·19	12 59	13·11	6·10	21·55	8·90	8·80	14·00
Sankaridrug			18·41	12·48	9·61	7·30	22·51	7·73	14·13	5·25
			16·80	12·53	11·36	6·70	22·03	8·32	11·46	9·62
Dharmapuri Taluk.										
Dharmapuri			20·25	15·11	19·88	13·74	23·14	8·77	13·20	17·40
Pennagaram			19·87	13·64	13·83	5·03	24·45	9·80	16·10	7·85
			20·06	14·37	16·85	9·38	23·79	9·28	14·65	12·62

Stationwar particulars not available. Do.

Rain-registering stations.	AVERAGE RAINFALL OF THE SIX YEARS ENDING 1875–76.		AVERAGE OF 10 YEARS ENDING 1887–88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Hosúr Taluk.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
Hosúr	Stationwar particulars not available.	do.	20·64	13·58	17·20	11·88	21·21	14·65	20·86	12·06
Denkanikóta			16·50	13·27	10·95	12·28	20·90	11·50	25·57	19·28
			18·57	13·42	14·07	12·08	21·05	13·07	23·21	15·67
Krishnagiri Taluk.										
Krishnagiri			18·41	13·31	17·63	11·40	23·40	13·28	17·23	19·81
Tirupatúr Taluk.										
Tirupatúr			21·97	13·68	22·80	13·20	20·41	10·73	22·84	7·76
Vániyambádi			18·89	13·87	17·01	13·13	24·33	16·78	22·34	8·33
		Do.	20·43	13·77	19·90	13·16	22·37	13·75	22·59	8·04
Uttankarai Taluk.										
Uttankarai			17·90	13·74	21·38	16·58	20·60	7·28	22·03	6·60
Harur			15·81	14·72	21·89	15·15	15·96	10·10	17·65	12·62
			16·85	14·23	21·63	15·86	18·28	8·69	19·84	9·62
Shevaroy Hills			42·38	24·98	44·70	24·50	60·53	14·55	32·20	20·38
District Average ..	23·04	12·26	20·06	14·09	18·35	11·62	25·82	10·63	18·98	12·33

35·30 average for 6 years ending 1876.
34·15 do. for 10 do. do. 1888.
29·97 do. of 1888–89.
36·45 do. of 1889–90.
31·31 do. of 1890–91.

Taking the district as a whole it will be seen that the rainfall as a whole has been deficient except in one year, when there was a slight excess. In that one year it will be seen that while there was an excess under the south-west monsoon, there was a deficiency under the north-east. In that year, also, the distribution of the rain was not normal. Looking into the details of the statement, it will be seen that the rainfall has been deficient in Salem division, of the Salem taluk, in all monsoons but one—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. In Rasipur, the south-west monsoon has been normal in all 3 years, while the north-east has failed. Omalúr has had one good season with one failure of the south-west monsoon, and but a slight deficiency in the north-east. Atúr has had one failure of the north-east monsoon and not altogether bad seasons otherwise. Námakal has had one good south-west monsoon and one north-east monsoon, the last good, but the rest have been failures. Paramathi has had but two failures of the south-west monsoon. In Hosúr, both divisions, the seasons have been practically normal, while the same is true of Krishnagiri. In Tirupatúr division the south-west monsoons have practically not failed at all, while the last two north-east monsoons have been failures. In Vániyambádi the season has been the same, except that only one north-east monsoon has failed. In the Uttankarai division, the south-west monsoon has not failed, but the two last north-east monsoons have been failures. In the Harur division, however, the seasons have been normal. The above remarks may be summarized in the annexed statement where—

F stands for favorable season, or nearly up to, or above, the average; and

U stands for unfavorable, or considerably below the average.

Rain-registering stations.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.		Total Favorable.	Total Unfavorable.
	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.	South-west monsoon.	North-east monsoon.		
Salem	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Rasipur	F	U	F	U	F	U	3	3
Omalúr	F	U	F	F	F	F	5	1
Atúr	F	F	F	U	F	F	5	1
Námakal	U	U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Paramathi	U	F	F	F	U	F	4	2
Tiruchengód	U	U	F	U	U	F	2	4
Sankaridrug	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Dharmapuri	F	U	F	U	U	F	3	3
Pennagaram	U	U	F	U	U	U	1	5
Hosúr	U	U	F	F	F	F	4	2
Denkanikota	U	U	F	U	F	F	3	3
Krishnagiri	U	U	F	F	F	F	4	2
Tirupatúr	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Vániyambádi	F	F	F	F	F	U	5	1
Uttankarai	F	F	F	U	F	U	4	2
Harur	F	F	F	U	F	F	5	1
Shevaroys	F	F	F	U	U	U	3	3

From this we learn that the Salem division of the Salem taluk, the Sankari division of Tiruchengód, and the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri have had only one normal monsoon in the last six—the south-west monsoon of 1889–90. The Námakal division of Námakal, the Tiruchengód division of Tiruchengód have had only two normal monsoons in the last six, but those have been the south-west of 1889-90 and the north-east of 1890–91. Rasipur, Denkanikóta, Dharmapuri and Shevaroys have had three normal and three unfavorable monsoons; and in the rest of the district there has been a preponderance of normal.

3. *Monsoons.*—The following table shows the actual deficiency in the rainfall :—

Taluks.	1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).	South-west monsoon (April to September).	North-east monsoon (October to March).
Salem	— 2·66	— 3·77	+ 9·22	— 2·94	— 1·04	— 3·92
Atúr	— 0·47	— 0·85	+ 3·93	— 6·35	+ 2·32	— 1·92
Námakal	— 3·07	— 3·90	+ 9·90	— 3·07	— 5·20	+ 2·72
Tiruchengód	— 5·44	— 5·83	+ 5·23	— 4·21	— 5·34	— 2·91
Dharmapuri	— 3·21	— 4·99	+ 3·73	— 5·09	— 5·41	— 1·75
Hosúr	— 4·50	— 1·34	+ 2·48	— 0·35	+ 4·64	+ 2·25
Krishnagiri	— 0·78	— 1·91	+ 4·99	— 0·03	— 1·18	+ 6·50
Tirupatúr	— 0·53	— 0·61	+ 1·94	— 0·02	+ 2·16	— 5·73
Uttankarai	+ 4·78	+ 1·63	+ 1·43	— 5·54	+ 2·99	— 4·61
Shevaroy Hills	+ 1·32	— 0·48	+ 18·15	— 10·43	— 10·18	— 4·60
Total Average ..	— 1·71	— 2·47	+ 5·76	— 3·46	— 1·08	— 1·76

4. The following statement shows the monthly rainfall in each taluk and the rainfall up to date.

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Salem ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·90	4·30	2·46	2·93	6·78	4·17	6·80	4·07	1·28	·29	·07	·58	34·66
	1888–89 ..	·47	2·80	3·64	3·05	3·35	5·64	3·38	4·97	·61	·07	..	·25	28·28
	1889–90 ..	2·78	3·19	4·22	7·64	4·99	7·96	6·22	1·06	1·50	·06	..	1·39	40·93
	1890–91 ..	1·16	3·09	4·12	4·48	4·95	2·72	3·09	4·26	·23	·09	·92	·56	29·70
	1891–92 ..	1·61	·68	2·73	·97	·96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·11	4·42	1·64	3·59	6·40	3·62	6·99	6·41	1·53	·35	·01	·78	36·92
	1888–89 ..	..	1·35	2·45	1·50	3·05	12·00	4·75	6·50	1·00	..	..	3·00	35·60
	1889–90 ..	2·75	3·60	1·40	3·75	2·15	11·10	4·55	·60	2·35	·55	..	1·80	34·60
	1890–91 ..	0·05	2·50	5·58	2·45	6·83	4·83	4·20	5·80	..	..	1·65	2·53	37·32
	1891–92 ..	·80	1·45	1·00	1·50	1·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Námakal ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	0·99	3·97	·93	1·68	4·23	2·83	4·99	4·49	1·34	·14	·03	0·65	26·31
	1888–89 ..	1·42	4·12	·57	·67	·41	4·36	2·02	4·50	·64	·14	..	·40	19·33
	1889–90 ..	6·02	3·97	2·15	3·90	2·84	5·66	6·07	1·34	1·14	·02	..	..	33·13
	1890–91 ..	1·20	2·62	1·57	..	2·52	1·52	9·57	2·30	0·25	·80	·70	·75	23·82
	1891–92 ..	·50	·70	1·82	·95	·70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tiruchengód..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·78	4·07	1·88	1·74	4·48	3·80	6·36	4·22	1·28	·19	·12	·33	29·33
	1888–89 ..	1·35	2·42	1·85	·95	1·50	3·28	3·26	2·92	·22	·10	..	·20	18 06
	1889–90 ..	3·59	3·70	2·30	3·67	4·30	4·46	6·06	·70	1·10	0·17	..	0·27	30 34
	1890–91 ..	1·68	1·19	1·45	1·97	2·97	2·19	5·65	1·07	1·65	..	·70	·55	21·09
	1891–92 ..	·82	1·42	2·37	·57	·38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·86	5·02	1·99	2·03	5·96	4·12	6·77	4·32	1·90	·37	·29	·68	34·43
	1888–89 ..	·60	3·76	4·79	·30	1·32	6·07	3·16	5·59	·37	..	..	·25	26·24
	1889–90 ..	1·32	3·15	·91	5·35	8·27	4·78	7·45	0·34	1·15	0·11	..	0·22	33·08
	1890–91 ..	·59	4·81	2·44	1·64	6·24	5·10	5·71	6·72	..	0·17	·50	·45	34·20
	1891–92 ..	1·03	·52	1·85	1·17	1·65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hosúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·96	4·30	1·69	2·84	4·94	3·80	6·72	4·37	1·45	·25	·29	·35	31·99
	1888–89 ..	1·60	3·44	1·16	1·54	1·16	5·16	3·96	7·64	·17	·15	..	·15	26·15
	1889–90 ..	1·07	1·79	1·44	2·57	4·85	9·32	9·35	·50	1·92	0·17	..	1·12	34·13
	1890–91 ..	3·60	5·80	·57	2·39	4·16	3·00	6·38	6·87	0·04	·19	·32	1·02	34·26
	1891–92 ..	·18	·20	4·40	1·10	1·03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·64	3·52	1·62	3·49	5·73	3·39	5·79	4·50	1·71	·16	·20	·94	31·72
	1888–89 ..	·10	5·95	3 10	·10	·73	7·65	5·85	5·05	..	..	..	·50	29·03
	1889–90 ..	3·55	1·80	1·80	6·00	3·90	6·35	8·60	0·78	3·40	0·20	..	0·30	36·68
	1890–91 ..	·43	5·32	·75	1·35	4·28	5·10	6·43	5·03	6·00	1·00	1·35	..	37·64
	1891–92 ..	·15	3·00	3·17	·42	·80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·60	3·95	2·12	2·72	6·18	4·84	5·97	5·47	1·74	·16	·12	·30	34·19
	1888–89 ..	·79	4·25	1·27	1·02	1·87	10·69	8·14	4·25	·50	·22	..	·05	33·07
	1889–90 ..	2·95	1·65	2·39	4·59	4·83	5·96	10·36	0·18	3·21	..	..	..	36·12
	1890–91 ..	·30	3·29	3·19	2·09	8·35	5·36	5·41	1·16	·26	·45	·62	·12	30·63
	1891–92 ..	·86	1·67	2·66	·72	1·97	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluks.	Years.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Uttankarai ..	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·55	2·89	1·55	1·78	6·46	3·60	5·01	5·52	2·63	·57	·03	·47	31·08
	1888–89 ..	·40	3·71	1·66	1·87	4·62	9·35	5·29	8·85	1·12	..	..	·75	37·66
	1889–90 ..	·40	1·37	1·56	5·80	3·87	5·56	5·07	·52	1·42	0·42	..	1·24	26·97
	1890–91 ..	·65	4·12	2·11	2·22	5·48	5·24	4·32	2·71	·02	·85	1·05	·65	29·45
	1891–92 ..	·80	·60	2·50	·45	·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shevaroy Hills.	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	1·92	6·79	6·56	6·77	12·62	7·69	10·44	8·73	4·26	·51	·13	·90	67·36
	1888–89 ..	2·50	5·85	10·55	5·10	8·25	12·45	8·05	12·35	3·25	0·40	..	·45	69·20
	1889–90 ..	3·85	4·55	8·48	16·75	10·90	16·00	9·05	0·90	2·85	0·75	..	1·00	75·08
	1890–91 ..	2·80	4·45	5·25	6·65	8·05	5·00	5·85	8·75	0·55	0·60	3·18	1·45	52·58
	1891–92 ..	1·30	0·60	3·35	3·55	·40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total (District).	Average of 10 years ending. 1887–88 ..	·88	4·22	2·08	2·69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1888–89 ..	·90	3·61	2·75	1·58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1889–90 ..	2·73	2·82	2·55	5·62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1890–91 ..	1·32	3·62	2·59	2·47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1891–92 ..	·86	·96	2·61	1.01	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

It will be seen from the above that the minor showers in April 1891, which are not due to the influence of any of the monsoons, were about the average in all the taluks.

In May 1891, however, about the end of which the south-west monsoon usually bursts with an average of 4·22 inches, there was little or no rain in Salem, Námakal, Dharmapuri, Hosúr, Uttankarai and even on the Shevaroy Hills. In Atúr, Tiruchengód and Tirupatúr, the rains were much less than, and in Krishnagiri about, the average for the respective taluks. The total average rainfall of the district was only ·96 of an inch against 3·62 in 1890–91, 2·82 in 1889–90, 3·61 in 1888–89 and 4·22, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In June 1891, the rainfall was above the averages of the respective taluk in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód, Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, and below it in the Atúr and Dharmapuri taluks and on the Shevaroys. The total average rainfall of the district was 2·61 inches against 2·08, the average of the 10 years ending 1887–88.

In July 1891, the rainfall was considerably less than the average in all the taluks except Atúr, Dharmapuri and Hosúr, where it was about half the average.

In August 1891 (up to 22nd), except in Atúr, Dharmapuri, Hosúr and Tirupatúr where the rainfall was between 1 and 2 inches, there was little or no rain in the remaining taluks.

5. Thus the position may be summed up by saying that the south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district, and that it has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankari division and the Tirupatúr divisions, it has followed three in different monsoons. In the rest of the district the position is not materially aggravated by former bad seasons.

6. *Cultivation.*—Statement A, herewith submitted, compares the occupied area, cultivation (1st crop), &c., in each of the faslis 1296 to 1300.

The extent cultivated in fasli 1300, 1890--91, in many instances exceeds even that in the last favorable year, viz., fasli 1296, and is not of itself an index to the state of the season. The rains of June, which were nearly normal, led to the ploughing and sowing of the land. But owing to the subsequent failure of the rains, the crop on all the lands so sown, except those under wells, has been lost and the ryots are only the poorer by the loss of their seed. The crop has now been totally lost on all dry lands sown prior to, and in the early part of, July.

From the amount of remissions granted, however, it may be seen that the season in the faslis from 1298 has been bad in the Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks.

7. A statement B, showing the cultivation in each month of the five years ending 1890–91 and in each month up to July of the current year in each taluk, is submitted. The following is an abstract thereof :—

Taluks.	—	April.		May.		June.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91 ..	7,763	1,377	11,982	1,122	25,263	1,241
	1891–92	2,357	921	3,685	768	18,695	986
Atúr	Average	852	1,024	409	564	1,852	1,437
	1891–92	312	413	207	174	2,925	1,573
Námakal	Average	1,818	1,292	2,505	1,250	8,007	2,166
	1891–92	1,259	1,068	2,576	2,554	4,755	1,668
Tiruchengód	Average	2,722	1,173	16,565	1,826	22,189	1,200
	1891–92	5,172	993	4,347	366	30,997	1,592
Hosúr	Average	681	2,053	332	371	5,004	676
	1891–92	3	6	1	6	..	..
Dharmapuri	Average	581	607	9,340	1,335	31,393	1,605
	1891–92	713	736	2,142	987	19,673	1,037
Krishnagiri	Average	540	467	1,835	936	17,010	755
	1891–92	28	132	243	675	..	..
Tirupatúr	Average	837	268	437	345	12,339	960
	1891–92	7	9	1	2	..	..
Uttankarai	Average	315	289	203	105	7,041	472
	1891–92	6	19	1	6	1,178	50
Total ..	Average	16,109	8,551	43,608	7,854	130,098	10,512
	1891–92	9,857	4,297	13,203	5,538	78,223	6,906

Taluks.	—	July.		Total.	
		Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
		9	10	11	12
		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Salem	Average of five years ending 1890–91	44,692	1,440	89,700	5,180
	1891–92	46,956	2,510	71,693	5,185
Atúr	Average	6,880	2,462	9,993	5,487
	1891–92	726	572	4,170	2,732
Námakal	Average	19,082	3,397	31,412	8,105
	1891–92	5,449	1,948	14,039	7,238
Tiruchengód	Average	30,256	404	71,732	4,603
	1891–92	41,648	981	82,164	3,932
Hosúr	Average	16,143	1,384	22,160	4,484
	1891–92	10,948	4,132	10,952	4,144
Dharmapuri	Average	16,115	1,195	57,429	4,742
	1891–92	25,984	1,387	48,512	4,147
Krishnagiri	Average	33,706	2,007	53,091	4,165
	1891–92	37,478	2,808	37,749	3,615
Tirupatúr	Average	21,652	904	35,265	2,477
	1891–92	30,429	2,397	30,437	2,408
Uttankarai	Average	14,873	484	22,432	1,351
	1891–92	21,942	843	23,127	918
Total ..	Average	203,399	13,677	393,214	40,594
	1891–92	221,560	17,578	322,843	34,319

The average cultivation of the five years ending 1890–91 amounts to 1,221,536 acres under dry and 125,708 acres under wet, and the average cultivation up to the end of July on the average of the same five years is 393,214 acres under dry and 40,594 acres under wet. The cultivation in the current year up to the end of July amounts to only 322,843 acres under dry, and 34,319 acres under wet, or 82·10 and 84·54 per cent., respectively, of the average figures. The decrease occurs in all the taluks except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai. In Tiruchengód the timely rains in May and June seem to have induced many ryots to cultivate their lands in the hope of getting further rains which unfortunately disappointed them. In Uttankarai the increase is small. The amount of cultivation under the south-west monsoon is, it will be seen, large under normal conditions in Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and the taluks of the sub-division. In the former taluks, a large amount of dry cultivation is also made in the months of August, September, October and November. But as quite

half of the total cultivation made up to July must have been lost, it will be seen that the failure of the south-west monsoon in those taluks following seasons such as I have shown above must be a more serious matter than even in other parts of the district.

8. *Prices.*—The following statement compares the number of seers of 80 tolas of grain and other articles of produce per rupee in each of the years 1887–88 to 1890–91. Particulars for the years 1887–88 to 1889–90 have been taken from Board's Proceedings, dated 20th September 1890, No. 283 :—

Names of grains.	1887–88.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	April 1891.	May 1891.	June 1891.	July 1891.	Price on 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 1st sort	14·7	13·6	12·2	10·72	10·35	10·34	10·05	9·69	..
Rice, 2nd sort	16·3	15·2	14·0	12·47	12·1	12·0	11·6	11·3	10·62
Paddy, 1st sort	25·0	23·4	21·0	18·63	18·22	17·89	17·58	16·85	..
Paddy, 2nd sort	27·7	25·9	23·4	20·92	20·22	20·16	19·35	18·55	..
Cholum	30·3	25·9	26·0	22·39	21·5	21·2	21·3	19·3	17·97
Cumbu	29·5	26·2	26·3	23·39	21·4	20·7	20·2	19·5	18·19
Ragi	34·0	31·7	31·5	28·27	25·8	25·9	24·43	22·6	21·34
Varagu	36·6	33·5	32·1	30·64	26·22	25·99	25·52	24·65	..
Horse-gram	30·9	29·9	23·2	21·10	24·23	23·88	23·25	21·88	..
Salt	14·2	12·7	12·8	12·85	13·1	13·1	13·1	13·12	..

It will be seen that with the exception of horse-gram and salt, the prices of all the articles have, year after year, risen gradually, owing to a succession of bad seasons. The rise is most perceptible in 1890–91. The present prices are considerably higher than the average of 1890–91, but they are not unprecedented, as from the book containing the "prices and wages in India" published by the Government of India, it is observed that prices higher than the present prices ruled in the district in certain years as shown below :—

Years.	Rice.	Ragi.	Cholum.	Cumbu.
	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.	SEERS.
1866	10·3	17·7	16·1	16·5
1867	8·	12·3	11·5	12·5
1868	10·5	16·8	16·3	17·4
1869	..	20·1	..	..
1876	..	19·28	..	..
1877	6·95	8·31	8·22	7·51
1878	8·35	12·08	11·18	11·55
1879	10·3	17·45	15·82	16·38

The above years are, of course, famine years, or years immediately succeeding such years.

9. A statement C, showing the average prices at each price-registering-station since 1888–89, is submitted. The following statement gives particulars for the taluk kasbah stations :—

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Rice, 2nd sort.								
Atúr	16·31	15·09	12·84	13·16	12·78	12·22	11·64	11·28
Salem	13·93	13·16	12·53	11·28	11·28	10·90	10·49	10·34
Hosúr	14·64	12·99	12·08	11·88	11·34	11·88	11·34	10·80
Dharmapuri	15·82	14·54	12·72	12·85	13·17	12·85	11·43	10·80
Krishnagiri	15·90	14·30	12·81	11·98	12·63	10·91	10·99	11·07
Námakal	15·93	14·73	12·98	13·30	13·11	12·82	11·87	11·75
Tiruchengód	14·63	13·79	11·76	11·40	11·40	11·40	11·40	10·34
Uttankarai	15·20	13·32	11·48	10·92	10·92	10·45	10·92	9·74
Tirupatúr	14·23	13·34	12·07	10·73	10·45	10·26	10·23	9·50

Taluks.	Average price for 1888–89.	Average price for 1889–90.	Average price for 1890–91.	Average price for April 1891.	Average price for May 1891.	Average price for June 1891.	Average price for July 1891.	Price on Saturday the 22nd August 1891.
Ragi.								
Atúr	22·95	28·71	25·58	24·79	22·40	23·25	22·54	20·52
Salem	30·38	38·20	27·27	24·79	25·13	23·94	21·89	20·94
Hosúr	39·39	42·15	36·49	32·98	32·98	31·04	27·16	27·16
Dharmapuri	31·75	32·67	29·95	27·93	27·64	26·09	24·05	21·34
Krishnagiri	31·16	31·10	28·22	25·51	26·28	22·40	21·34	20·37
Námakal	29·74	29·30	25·01	24·61	23·35	21·84	20·54	20·52
Tiruchengód	26·17	26·87	24·59	22·09	21·84	21·84	19·10	20·52
Uttankarai	32·67	29·66	25·80	23·52	23·52	23·52	21·00	20·16
Tirupatúr	30·88	27·84	25·89	21·92	21·84	21·33	19·81	20·58
Cholum.								
Atúr	25·39	26·92	22·11	21·11	20·93	24·57	20·69	18·20
Salem	25·81	25·75	21·87	20·93	21·11	20·93	18·65	18·20
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	30·92	28·90	28·26	25·92	24·08	22·24	21·80	..
Námakal	26·24	28·17	21·19	21·09	21·00	21·53	18·95	20·02
Tiruchengód	24·35	25·11	21·27	19·58	18·95	18·69	16·25	17·29
Uttankarai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tirupatúr	23·09	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cumbu.								
Atúr	27·91	27·70	25·22	22·96	21·81	22·30	22·04	20·50
Salem	22·89	24·22	23·59	21·32	21·32	21·15	20·42	19·68
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishnagiri	29·78	36·28	26·60	22·56	22·37	20·49	19·83	17·86
Námakal	28·05	28·47	21·06	20·65	18·71	17·82	17·63	18·04
Tiruchengód	22·13	25·27	22·72	21·30	20·73	20·00	18·45	18·04
Uttankarai	30·92	26·58	24·80	22·68	22·68	22·68	20·25	17·82
Tirupatúr	27·57	25·43	22·76	20·41	19·44	19·19	17·82	15·39

It will be seen from the above that the price of second-sort rice is considerably higher in Tirupatúr (9·50) and Uttankarai (9·74) than in the other taluks—Salem and Tiruchengód following them; that the price of ragi, the standard grain for the district, rules highest in Uttankarai; that cholum, the price of which in July at Tiruchengód was 16·25 seers, has since fallen to 17·29 seers the rupee, and that it is the highest at which it sells; and that cumbu sells as high as 15·39 and 17·82 seers the rupee in Tirupatúr and Uttankarai, respectively.

10. A statement D showing the average monthly prices is submitted.

11 The staple grains of the district are second-sort rice, ragi, cholum and cumbu, and their scarcity rates as fixed in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137, are compared below with the prevailing rates :—

Staple grains.	Average price during the famine year 1877.	Normal rate, *i.e.*, average of three years ending 1875-76.	Scarcity rate sanctioned for the district in G.O., dated 11th September 1880, No. 1137.	Prices for the week ending 22nd August 1891.	Percentage of rise over the normal rates.	Percentage below the scarcity rates.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	7·3	14·30	8·5	10·62	25·73	24·94
Ragi	9·2	27·52	13·5	21·34	22·46	58·07
Cholum	8·75	23·25	11·5	18·19	21·76	58·17
Cumbu	9·3	25·92	13·0	17·97	30·67	38·23

It will be seen from the above that while the price of ragi and cholum shows a rise of less than 25 per cent. over the normal rates, that of rice shows a rise of 25·73 per cent. and cumbu 30·67 per cent. The large rise in the price of cumbu is due to the entire failure of the cumbu crop sown in May and June owing to want of rain in July and August. The price of ragi which is the standard grain for this district is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate.

12. Having given particulars for the whole district regarding rainfall, cultivation and prices, I proceed to review the state of each taluk as reported to me by the Tahsildars. The Personal Assistant Deputy Collector has submitted a report on the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk and the General Charge Deputy Collector on the Námakal division. Copies of their reports are submitted.

13. *Atúr.*—The rainfall of one inch on the 17th of August has improved the condition of the standing crops, viz., ragi, cumbu, indigo and paddy. No agricultural operations are in progress. Ryots wait for further rains. Pasture is scanty. Water-supply is insufficient.

14. *Krishnagiri.*—The standing crops, viz., cumbu, ragi, samai and gingelly-oil seeds are fading for want of rain. Pasture is scarcely available; in some parts cattle are dying. Water-supply is insufficient for agricultural operations. It is obtained with difficulty in some parts for drinking purposes.

15. *Tirupatúr.*—The standing crops are cumbu, varagu, cholum, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), castor-oil plants, sugarcane and paddy. Those in the vicinity of good wells and under the Pálár irrigation are in a somewhat good condition. In some places cumbu is lost; in other places it is withering for want of rain. Ragi and samai were sown after the rains in the past week. A greater portion of land is lying waste for want of rain. Pasture is scanty. Drinking-water supply is defective in some places.

16. *Hosúr.*—The standing crops, viz., ragi, avarai (beans), cumbu and gingelly have improved by the recent fall of rain. Paddy and sugarcane are in good condition in some places. Ragi and avarai (beans) have been sown. Pasture and fodder are insufficient. Deaths among cattle are reported. Cattle are being taken to forest parts for grazing purposes. Water-supply for drinking purposes is sufficient; for agricultural operations it is insufficient.

17. *Dharmapuri.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, cumbu, varagu, samai and ragi are in good condition. Paddy and gingelly were harvested; the outturn was from 8 to 12 annas. Paddy, ragi, samai, varagu, avarai (beans) and oil-seeds are sown. Pasture is insufficient. Water-supply is sufficient for drinking purposes, but it is insufficient for agricultural operations. The Tahsildar states that if there be no rain within four or five days it is expected that the crops will begin to fade. I have since heard that there was an inch of rain at Palcode on the night of the 23rd.

18. *Námakal.*—The crops under the Cauvery channels are in an excellent condition. The crops under wells, except in the Kahilakurichi firka, where the supply in wells is insufficient, are in a fair condition. The crops on other lands, viz., cholum, ragi, cumbu, thenai and cotton have improved by the rainfall, on the 15th and 17th August, of five and two tenths respectively. Lands are being ploughed up everywhere, and in parts where the recent rains fell varagu, samai and cumbu are being sown. Pasture is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts and at the foot of the Kollimalais. Fodder is exported to the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks. Water-supply for drinking purposes is just sufficient in the Shendamangalam firka, but insufficient elsewhere. Water-supply for agricultural operations is insufficient except in the Cauvery parts. Cumbu and cholum have been harvested in some places; the outturn was from 4 to 12 annas. Paddy is being harvested under the Cauvery channels, and the outturn is from 12 to 16 annas.

19. *Uttankarai.*—The standing crops, cumbu, avarai (beans), varagu, samai and thovarai (dholl), are withering for want of rain. Cattle suffer from want of pasture. Scarcity of water is greatly felt. Any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit the standing crops, but may help to sow paddy, cumbu, &c. Harvests and other agricultural operations are *nil*. Cholera is prevalent in parts of the taluk.

A statement (E) showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 24,045 acres were cultivated against the three years' average of 18,646 acres and against the five years' average of 23,783 acres. The increase of cultivation over the three years' average is due to the fact that in those years cultivation was much less than in the two previous years. Of the area cropped, viz., 24,045 acres, cumbu, cholum and ragi cover more than half. The information furnished by the Tahsildar on the state of the season is meagre, and the Head Assistant Collector will be asked to submit a detailed report as early as possible.

20. *Salem.*—The standing crops, viz., paddy, ragi, pani varagu, cumbu, samai, cholum, thenai, gingelly, castor-oil seeds, thovarai (dholl), avarai (beans), ground-nut and varagu in Mecheri, Omalúr, Salem and Karipatti firkas have already withered or are fading. The crops under wells in the Rasipur, Salem and Karipatti firkas, are in a fair condition. Thenai, cumbu and varagu in the Rasipur firka are being harvested, outturn being from 4 to 8 annas. Agricultural operations are at a standstill except under wells in some parts of the Rasipur firka. If there be rain before the 5th September, cholum, varagu, cumbu, ground-nut, avarai (beans), thovarai, (dholl) and castor-oil seeds in some villages and crops under wells will revive. No crops in the Mecheri firka, however, will be benefited. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, the standing crops will not be benefited except those under wells having a fair supply, which may thrive and yield an outturn of not more than 8 annas. If rain falls within the 5th September, cholum, perum cumbu, ragi, karunjamai, tobacco, white thenai, horse-gram, black gram, Bengal gram and green gram may be sown; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. If rain falls after the 5th September and before the 15th October, pani varagu, cholum, perum cumbu, horse-gram, Bengal gram and black gram may be sown or transplanted; also paddy under wells and irrigation sources. The Tahsildar reports that small farmers and agricultural labourers suffer much because they find no labour, that some people eat aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits, that cattle suffer much from want of fodder, and that some of them have actually died. Scarcity of water even for drinking purposes for men and cattle is very keenly felt except in some villages of the Rasipur, Karipatti and Salem firkás. Almost all the tanks and streams are empty and supply in wells is diminishing.

21. The following facts are gathered from the Personal Assistant Deputy Collector's report on the state of season in the Omalúr division of the Salem taluk:—

There are 70 tanks in the division. Most of them are empty and none has received any decent supply. There was literally no cultivation under tanks. Under only one tank (Gollapatti) this has been commenced, and seedlings have been raised under a few others. There is no water in the great majority of the wells used for agricultural purposes. The wells used for drinking purposes are, except in a few cases which do not, however, supply the requisite quantity of water, nearly dried up. The loudest complaint which one meets with is as regards the drinking-water supply, and drought seems to threaten man and beast more than any other, foreboding serious alarm. The standing crops are samai, cumbu, cholum, gingelly, ragi, varagu, pani varagu, castor-oil seeds, thenai, thovarai (dholl) and avarai (beans). Pani varagu is lost everywhere. Kullan cumbu appears to have been harvested in some places and yielded a two-anna crop. In some places it is a hopeless crop and stalks are drying up. Even immediate rainfall will hardly benefit the crop. The crop is in many places cut and used for fodder. Gingelly is almost lost. Ragi, which is the most considerable staple grain, is nowhere seen to any appreciable extent. In some places it has been eaten by green worms. In some villages ragi seedlings raised for transplantation have been partly lost. Varagu is in a fair condition. Castor-oil seeds and thovarai (dholl) are in a good condition. Perum cumbu, cholum, samai, ragi, and thenai are fading. The Deputy Collector writing on the 6th August considered that these crops would revive if rain fell in a fortnight, but there has been no fall of rain worth mentioning since. The extent cultivated is about 30 per cent. of that cultivated in fasli 1296. The year is worse than most of the preceding years in which rainfall was deficient, and the country presents a serious and an alarming aspect. About 8,000 kandagams of ragi and 1,200 of paddy are held in stock exclusive of the stock held by the ryots for their private consumption. The markets are sufficiently supplied. In no shandy or market has any complaint been received or known as to the deficiency of stock for sale to intending purchasers. The grain trade is nowhere

lax and the supply is equal to the demand, which, however, is on the increase owing to the absence of harvest of the early crop which should have been had by this time. Prices are on the increase. There has, however, been no sudden rise, but, so far as the dry grains are concerned, the present prices are 60 per cent. higher than those which prevailed in the harvest time in a good year and about 40 per cent. higher than the price which prevailed in the last harvest time. The prices have not reached any alarming stage, but are of course very dear. About 40,000 people purchase grain in markets and about 60,000 live upon their stock, which will carry them from one month to one year and above. In some places there is pasture and fodder which are being used up rapidly. In other places they are either quite insufficient or scarce. In some places roots of grass are dug up and used for cattle. Small and poor pattadars are using even their thatch for the cattle and, wherever procurable, leaves of margosa, palmyra, unja, palai and other trees are being utilized as fodder. Cattle are brought in numbers for sale at markets and their price is falling. The classes that are suffering much are small pattadars and coolies of the Pariah and Chuckler castes. About 10,000 persons are out of their usual employment, agricultural operations being at a standstill. Some of them are employed by well-to-do ryots in improving their lands; some cut and sell firewood, grass, &c., in towns; some who could obtain credit take loans and live upon them; and some have resorted to towns in hopes of finding cooly there. No serious complaint of starvation has been received, but there is no doubt that difficulties and sufferings exist almost everywhere; some make up their food by substituting gruel for solid food with the addition of aloe roots and prickly-pear fruits. More care is taken by people to spare all means available for purchase of food. Notwithstanding all this, the people are hopeful of rain under the north-east monsoon. The Deputy Collector considers that it is too early to start any relief works, that we may wait till September, and that if rain still holds off measures of relief would then be very necessary, the ordinary works being quite sufficient for the present. The Deputy Collector states that the country west of Suramangalam and south of Salem-Omalúr road is also reported to be similar in condition to the Omalúr division. A statement F showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 75,179 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the 3 years' average of 95,232 acres. Cholum, cumbu and ragi cover more than half the area. The extent on which crops have been harvested up to date and the outturn are given below:—

Crops.	16 annas.	8 annas.	4 annas.	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Cholum	329	858	448	1,635
Cumbu	8	136	1,245	1,389
Ragi	4	68	16	88
Other pulses, &c.	25	208	70	303
Gingelly-oil seeds	20	166	239	425
Topes	89	66	54	209
Total ..	475	1,502	2,072	4,049

22. *Tiruchengód.*—Standing crops are cholum, cumbu, ragi, samai, thenai, castor-oil seeds, avarai (beans), thovarai (dholl), tattapayar, cotton and varagu. All these crops, except those under wells which have water, are withering or have already withered, and any rain that may hereafter fall will not benefit them. Agricultural operations are at a standstill. The first gingelly crop had failed. Cholum under wells has been harvested in some places. Outturn was from 4 to 8 annas. Cattle look lean and emaciated from want of fodder. Palmyra and margosa leaves and thatch are used for fodder. The General Deputy Collector has reported that people sell their jewels, &c., to buy the necessaries of life, that a few families of chucklers have left their homes in search of labour, that it appears that there is no stock of food-grains either in the villages or with the merchants, that food-grains are imported from other stations, that drinking-water scarcity is the most keenly felt want in this taluk, and that landless and labouring classes are in urgent need of employment.

A statement G showing the area cultivated under each crop during the past four months, compared with the average of the same months of the three years ending 1889–90, is submitted, from which it will be seen that 86,095 acres were cultivated up to the end of July against the three years' average of 72,614 acres. The increase is due, as already stated, to the timely rains in May and June, which, however, were not followed by further rains as expected. Cumbu covers more than 60,000 acres. Particulars of harvests and outturn are not reported. The standing cumbu crops are reported to have almost withered.

23. The statistics of rainfall, cultivation and prices, and the review of the taluks given above will show that the only taluks giving cause for anxiety at present are Salem, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, where there has been a succession of bad seasons since 1888–89. The whole of the Salem taluk, however, connot be said to be seriously affected. It is only the western portion, viz., the tract of country lying to the west of the Tirumanimuthar, that is so. The country on that side of the river is on a high level and is always the first to be affected by bad seasons. The most generally felt wants at present are drinking water and fodder. That the first should fail is not to be wondered at considering the almost complete cessation of rains since December last, for any rain which has since fallen has been in local and partial showers. This of course has brought with it a complete failure of pasture.

24. With a view to relieve, as far as our resources allow, the first want, I have, in my memorandum, dated 7th August 1891, No. 1284-L.F., requested Presidents of the Taluk Boards, Salem, Námakal, and Tirupatúr to take early steps to improve, in all legitimate ways, the existing drinking-water supply, either by sinking new wells or deepening and improving existing wells, in those localities where the pressure is most severely felt, and have informed them that for this purpose the District Board will be prepared to consider favorably applications for extra allotments. The budget grant, including subsequent allotments, for improvement of water-supply in the three Local Fund taluks of Salem, Námakal and Tirupatúr, which include the affected localities, amounts to Rs. 3,010, of which Rs. 1,096 have been spent up to July (inclusive). The Salem Taluk Board has since sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for improvement of water-supply, and the Námakal Taluk Board has applied for an allotment of Rs. 1,487 for deepening the bed of, and improving, the Kamalalayam tank. No intimation of the steps taken to improve water-supply has been received from the President of the Tirupatúr Taluk Board. I am asking the Presidents of the Taluk Boards concerned to furnish me with a weekly statement of the progress made in sinking and improving wells. I believe, however, that estimates have been called for and submitted in most instances in Salem and Tiruchengód, and that considerable aid has been already or will immediately be given.

25. With regard to pasture, on receiving mahazars from certain villagers in the Salem taluk requesting that their cattle be admitted to grazing in forest reserves (with reference to the Board's proposed amendment of section 98 of the Famine Code—Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1890, No. 274), I asked the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, in my letter, dated 8th August 1891, Ref. on No. 2828-Eng., to let me know what forests could be opened to grazing or in which the grazing rates could be lowered to serve the Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks. With reference to the Conservator's letter in reply, dated 17th August 1891, No. 1353, a notice has been issued to the effect that during the prevalence of drought grazing of cattle and sheep but not goats will be permitted free in all the reserved forests and reserved lands of the Salem, Námakal, Tiruchengód and Uttankarai taluks, except certain specially protected blocks, subject to the proviso that, if any persons in charge of, or connected with, the cattle grazing, are found destroying trees or shrub growth either by hacking or wrenching off with their hands, the concession will at once be cancelled as regards all cattle in their charge. Nothing more can be done in the matter.

26. The population principally affected may be divided into ryots and agricultural labourers. The former are eager for loans, and it is of urgent importance, at this critical period, to push on the digging of wells. The special well rules

under section 10 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, have been extended to this district under Government notification, dated 1st August 1891, No. 346, published at page 803, of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th August 1891. The Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód state that applications for loans are being received every day in large numbers, and the same is very likely the case in the other affected taluks. I myself, yesterday, at Chinnappampatti, received 15 applications for loans. I have issued very stringent orders to the Tahsildars to make special arrangements to see that the applications are disposed of promptly. I am sure that the number of applications will become so large as to be beyond the power of the ordinary establishment to inquire into and dispose of as promptly as is required, and I request that two additional 1st-class Revenue Inspectors, for each of the three affected taluks, may be sanctioned to inquire into, and report on, the applications. The additional Revenue Inspectors will be employed only when it is found that the ordinary establishment is unable to do the work required promptly. No other measures are now necessary to alleviate the pressure upon the ryots who will, on the whole, with the usual food stocks with them (I do not agree with the General Charge Deputy Collector in considering that there is no grain in stock) manage, without very much stress, until the next harvest.

27. Labourers are of two kinds, viz., those who are employed permanently, and those who are so, only, casually.

28. I understand that the permanent labourers will be fed and kept on by the ryots until the time of the north-east monsoon, or at least until the end of September, in the hope that the monsoon will be favorable. If then, the rains hold off, the ryots will retain their resources for themselves, and turn the labourers adrift, it will then be time enough to take measures for their relief. No cases of permanent labourers having been turned out by the ryots, have, as yet, come to notice.

29. Except the report of the local officers there is no sign of any scarcity of work for the casual labourers. There is no large influx into the town; the returns received from the Superintendent of Police show that only 110 persons have come into the town up to date; there is no noticeable increase of crime, though the General Deputy Collector states that the Police officers find a tendency in the crime, to increase everywhere in the affected parts; the price of ragi is 58·07 per cent. below the scarcity rate; and there is neither cholera nor small-pox in any of the affected taluks except Uttankarai, where a few cases have been reported. At the same time it is certain that the casual labourers are not being now employed by the ryots in the affected tracts nor will they be so, unless there is a decided change in agricultural prospects. There is, I fear, considerable pressure on them just now. Everywhere I go, the pariahs and lower castes come in crowds asking for work. In Sunkari and the north-west of Salem, there has been some rain lately, which has enabled these classes to get a little employment, but if the season does not continue to improve, it is to be feared that soon these men will wander about the country, unless work is provided for them at convenient centres. They have now been practically without employ for two months, and must be getting near the end of their resources. In the course of my present tour, I have come through Omalúr and the northern end of Tiruchengód. I have not seen any signs of actual want or emaciation in the people. The time has not come just yet, I think, for relief works, but for the present, *i.e.*, until the end of September, when a change is expected in the prospects of the season, the ordinary road works, minor irrigation works, village site improvements and deepening of wells, will be quite sufficient. Steps are being taken to provide works of the kind wherever needed. I would sum up the situation thus:—

30. If we have a bumper north-east monsoon continuing steadily from September onwards, which will give a good crop and fill the wells so that work may continue through the hot weather, no relief of any kind will be necessary.

If we have only a moderate monsoon and moderate crop so that work may not be easily had, in the hot weather, there will be distress then, which may need relief.

If the rain fails to come well through September and October and the north-east monsoon fails, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts of this

district, gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon. If the rain holds off and the season does not continue to improve during the first half of September, it will be necessary at once to prepare to open relief works, which must be started by 1st October at latest.

31. Thus, if the north-east monsoon rains hold off in September, it will be necessary to adopt measures of relief about the beginning of October in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks and, perhaps, afterwards, in the Uttankarai taluk.

32. No reports of distress reach me from Pennagaram. I am calling for a special report from the Sub-Collector as to the condition of that tract.

33. In the event of its being found necessary to adopt relief measures, I propose that relief be administered by means of (1) works, and (2) gratuitous relief in poor-houses only.

34. (1) *Works.*—The following statement gives particulars of the programme of professional and civil agency works for 1891–92 (Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 478):—

Affected taluks.	Local Fund Works.				Minor Irrigation Works.				Total.			
	Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.		Number of works.	Estimate.	Number of coolies required per year.	
			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.
		Rs.				Rs.				Rs.		
Salem	6	83,090	1,108	1,108	79	23,860	318	318	96	1,20,650	1,609	1,609
	Municipal Works.											
	11	13,700	183	183	..	..	..	..				
Tiruchengód	2	57,801	770	770	77	39,444	526	526	79	97,245	1,296	1,296
Uttankarai	1	23,482	313	313	176	17,380	232	232	177	40,862	545	545
Local Fund works extending over more than one taluk ..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191	..	..	..	..	9	1,64,373	2,191	2,191
Total ..	29	3,42,446	4,565	4,565	332	80,684	1,076	1,076	361	4,23,130	5,641	5,641

35. Since the submission of the above programme to the Board, I called upon the Local Fund Engineer to submit estimates for the repair of certain roads selected by me in the affected localities, and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód taluks to submit estimates for the repair of three minor irrigation works in each firka of their taluks situated in convenient centres, so that the works might readily be taken up in case of emergency.

36. The following statement gives particulars of works so selected and for which estimates are ready on hand:—

Taluks.	Firka.	Particulars of works selected.	Estimated cost.
Tiruchengód	Elur	Repair of 10 minor irrigation works, being tanks, anicuts and channels	11,362
	Sankaridrug	Repair of 2 works, do. do. ..	1,500
	Yadapadi	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	1,910
	Tiruchengód	Do. 3 works, do. do. ..	1,706
Salem	Salem	Do. 2 works, do. do. ..	760
	Rasipur	Do. do. do. do. ..	905
	Omalúr	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,210
	Mecheri	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,040
	Kanpatti	Do. do. do. do. ..	1,260
Salem and Tiruchengód.	....	9 road works	29,240
		Total ..	50,893

37. As I found, on a perusal of the list of professional agency works communicated in Government Order, dated 26th May 1891, No. 454, that none of the

works therein mentioned as available for famine relief in this district would be of the slightest use to the west and south of the district, I have, in my letter, dated 1st August 1891, Reference on No. 1466-B and G, requested the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to call for, and have in hand, some project to benefit the Tiruchengód and Salem (west) taluks, as well as Uttankarai, so that they may be available at short notice. It is not known what works the Chief Engineer has selected.

38. I have also asked the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore division, to postpone giving out, on contract, all available works in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, as long as possible.

39. Besides, on the receipt of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450, advising the Collectors of districts in which the position is critical to submit programmes of famine relief works and to get estimates ready at once, I called upon the Tahsildars of Salem, Tiruchengód, Námakal, Uttankarai and Tirupatúr, to submit a general list of major and minor irrigation works which could be taken up in their taluks in the event of relief works being required therein.

40. A list of irrigation works has been received from the Tahsildar of Uttankarai; particulars are given below:—

Taluk.	Firka.	Particulars of works.	Estimated cost.
			Rs.
Uttankarai ..	Uttankarai ..	2 Major irrigation works	6,000
		14 Minor do.	8,200
	Karúr	5 Major do.	26,000
	Morapur	13 Minor do.	7,700
		10 Do. do.	6,100
		Total ..	54,000

41. The other Tahsildars are also sending in similar lists and are preparing estimates.

42. Lists of minor irrigation works in the prescribed form will be submitted for sanction shortly. The works will be commenced only if it is considered necessary to adopt relief measures.

43. I understand, however, that there will be considerable difficulty in finding suitable irrigation or road repairs in the Tiruchengód taluk. I am in correspondence with the Executive Engineer about the irrigation works. The difficulty arises, as almost all are in repairs, that the tank restoration party having just left the taluk.

44. If relief works are to be started I propose that all the works should be carried out by the Public Works Department, and that *no* relief work should be executed under civil agency.

45. Such works are mostly a pleasant picnic for the labourers, who are employed, at their own doors, and who are not required really to work, and are mostly but a pleasant lounge-a-way of spending a happy day, and being paid by Government for it. Such works as clearing village-site, &c., were suggested to me in a mahazar, at Omalúr, but when I asked if the able-bodied labourers would go six miles to stone-breaking on a road, none would go. I consider that in the early days of distress, when a test of the necessity of relief is really wanted real work should be exacted from all applicants till severe famine is demonstrated.

46. The employment of only professional agency is in accordance with the intention of Government in paragraph 10 of G.O., dated 19th December 1890, No. 1026, Revenue, communicated in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1891, No. 38, which, I consider, should be strictly carried out. I request that arrangements may be made so that the Public Works Department staff of this district may be strengthened at a very short notice, and that that department may be ordered to undertake the supervision and execution of the relief works opened.

47. (2) *Gratuitous relief in Poor-houses.*—In regard to the administration of relief in poor-houses, I am in correspondence with the Divisional officers concerned

regarding the selection of sites for poor-houses, and shall, when the time arrives, when gratuitous relief should be given, construct poor-houses with the previous sanction of the Board and Government, and make arrangements to grant such relief in accordance with the instructions on the subject in the Famine Code. I consider that the relief should be restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour and have none to support them, and that the relief should be given in the shape of cooked food to be eaten in the poor-house.

48. To carry out relief operations, it will be necessary that the Divisional officers of Salem and Námakal and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód should be relieved of their magisterial work, since Salem and Tiruchengód are in different divisions, and since it is necessary, under the Famine Code, that the Divisional officers should take charge of relief, I think one 1st-class Magistrate might be put in charge of the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the two divisions. As soon as relief is started Special Sub-Magistrates must be appointed in Salem and Tiruchengód to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. The relief operations in the Uttankarai taluk may be left in charge of the Head Assistant Collector and Tahsildar as it is not likely that there will be at present any necessity to carry out operations on an extended scale, in this taluk.

49. I request that necessary sanction may be obtained for the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and Magistrate to take the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the Deputy Collectors, who may be placed in charge of the relief operations, and of two additional Sub-Magistrates on Rs. 100 each, to relieve the Salem and Tiruchengód Tahsildars of their magisterial work.

50. The additional Sub-Magistrates will be appointed by me and application for the posting of a Deputy Collector made by telegram, when the need for them arises.

51. I am in camp inspecting the affected tracts in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks.

Resolution—dated 8th September 1891, No. 560.

In his very carefully prepared letter read above, which will be submitted for the information of Government, the Collector reports on the condition and prospects of the Salem district, and, as regards the rainfall of the current year, summarises it as follows:— "The south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district and has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankarai division and the Tirupatúr division, it has followed three indifferent monsoons." In other parts of the district the position is not aggravated by previous bad seasons. That the rainfall up to date in the current season has been very deficient is shown by the following abstract:—

Taluks or stations.	October to December.		January to March.		April and May.		June to August.		April to September.
	Average.	1890.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.
Tirupatúr	12·83	6·85	0·67	1·20	4·92	2·54	10·51	5·13	21·67
Krishnagiri	10·74	17·46	1·03	2·35	4·76	3·15	9·54	4·39	19·75
Hosúr	11·85	13·30	0·94	1·43	5·23	0·38	8·54	8·67	18·35
Dharmapuri	11·07	17·68	1·19	1·60	5·32	1·84	8·39	6·50	18·42
Pennagaram	11·55	7·20	1·01	0·65	5·53	1·30	9·64	4·07	19·65
Uttankarai	12·07	5·20	0·98	1·40	4·10	0·45	9·89	4·85	19·73
Harur	13·08	8·93	1·29	3·70	3·26	2·35	9·06	2·41	16·50
Tiruchengód	9·89	12·55	0·64	1·45	4·64	2·00	6·73	3·60	15·63
Sankaridrug	10·89	4·20	0·77	1·05	5·13	2·50	8·91	4·60	18·02
Omalúr	10·08	8·03	0·71	1·55	4·09	1·50	10·67	3·59	18·79
Salem	12·13	7·68	1·19	1·69	7·15	2·38	13·89	6·89	27·70
Rasipur	11·34	7·05	0·60	1·50	4·13	3·00	10·66	5·35	18·10
Atúr	14·35	10·00	1·36	4·18	5·43	2·25	8·88	3·95	19·91
Námakal	9·78	12·12	0·69	2·25	5·44	1·20	6·48	4·15	15·17
Yercaud	21·05	15·15	1·49	5·23	8·01	1·90	23·51	10·15	40·22

Excepting in Krishnagiri, the usual heavy pre-monsoon rainfall of April and May was very deficient, and the south-west monsoon rains since then have been greatly below the average. The latter are not usually heavy during June and July, but in August usually reach to nearly 5 inches, if the Shevaroy Hills be excluded. Up to the end of August the deficiency at the stations in the most affected parts was as noted on the margin in comparison with the normal rainfall during June, July and August, which is also shown. Some rain which fell in these parts subsequent to the date of the Collector's report reduced the deficiency slightly. On the whole the rainfall of August has been very deficient throughout the district, this following on an almost dry July, but a fairly average June, which led to extensive sowings, has caused the loss of nearly all the dry crops sown under that rainfall and the ryots are thus "only the poorer by the loss of their seed."

	Normal rainfall.	Deficiency.
Uttankarai	9·89	5·04
Harur	9·06	6·65
Pennagaram	9·64	5·57
Omalúr	10·67	7 08
Sankaridrug	8·91	4·31
Tiruchengód	6·73	3·13

2. The effect of the fairly good early rains and the results of the subsequent failure may be gathered from the following table in which the actual areas sown during the current year up to July are contrasted with the average for the five years ending 1890–91 :—

Taluks.	April to July. Average. Dry.	April to July. Average. Wet.	April to July. 1891. Dry.	April to July. 1891. Wet.	Average, April to August. Dry.	Average, April to August. Wet.	Average annual total. Dry.	Average annual total. Wet.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
Tirupatúr	35,265	2,478	30,437	2,408	48,420	3,894	66,943	10,326
Krishnagiri	53,092	4,165	37,749	3,615	72,116	5,805	119,866	14,609
Hosúr	22,159	4,484	10,952	4,144	56,898	6,133	85,916	9,093
Dharmapuri	57,429	4,742	48,512	4,147	91,107	6,088	170,335	15,523
Uttankarai	22,433	1,351	23,127	918	51,681	2,086	129,559	6,672
Salem	89,700	5,180	71,693	5,185	135,567	6,443	245,592	19,154
Tiruchengód	71,732	4,603	82,164	3,932	113,432	5,613	186,239	11,474
Námakal	31,413	8,106	14,039	7,238	54,505	9,423	107,000	18,619
Atúr	9,993	5,487	4,170	2,732	32,946	7,318	110,086	20,238
District Total ..	393,216	40,596	322,843	34,319	656,672	52,803	1,221,536	125,708

Up to July in the current year the area of sowings only amounted to 82 per cent. under dry and 84·5 per cent. under wet of the average figures. Up to that date in the ordinary course 32 per cent. of the dry crops should have been sown and a rather smaller proportion of the wet crops. It is on the former that the district really depends, the total area of wet crops being only 125,700 acres. In the current year, the decrease occurs in all taluks, except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, and, in the latter, it is small. As already noted, most of these sowings have withered. The long drought in July and August also put a stop for long past to ordinary field operations. The actual area of dry land sown up to August was reported as 420,025 acres against an average, of 656,672 acres, which is nearly 54 per cent. of the total annual sowings. The proportion of these early sowings to the total for the year is normally very high in the marginally-noted taluks, but everywhere the proportion of the early sowings is very large and the situation gives cause for much anxiety. This is especially the case in the Tiruchengód, parts of the Salem, and Dharmapuri and the Uttankarai taluks. Information regarding the two last-named areas is not complete and the Collector will be requested to submit the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors' reports on the localities referred to at an early date. The reports should be made after personal inspection of the threatened tracts.

	Per cent.
Tirupatúr	72
Hosúr	66
Tiruchengód	61

3. Prices have been gradually rising in the district for several years past and in July they had shown a further rise as compared with the average rates for 1890–91. This rise, excepting at Námakal, has been continued up to the last week in August as shown in the following abstract:—

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee. Rice, 2nd sort. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Cholum. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tirupatúr	13·30	11·32	9·50	15·40	27·05	23·49	..	32·06
Krishnagiri	12·83	10·99	10·53	15·66	26·30	21·81	..	30·02
Hosúr	12·63	11·50	10·80	15·34	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	12·86	11·38	10·80	15·61	..	..	..	..
Uttankarai	11·88	11·16	9·74	14·88	..	..	..	..
Salem	11·83	10·77	10·34	14·06	21·18	19·26	18·20	26·69
Tiruchengód	11·70	11·06	10·34	15·07	20·66	16·79	16·38	25·12
Námakal	13·14	12·11	11·28	16·09	21·69	18·43	21·84	28·48
Atúr	12·85	11·64	11·28	15·91	22·11	20·70	17·29	30·40

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee—*cont.* Cumbu. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Ragi. Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tirupatúr	23·33	19·13	14·98	27·86	26·68	21·06	19·74	31·43
Krishnagiri	26 60	19·83	16·92	28·73	28·14	21·34	19·40	31·88
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	38·82	29·78	26·19	43·34
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	31·45	24·79	20·37	32·32
Uttankarai	25·61	22·27	17·82	30·91	28·23	23 10	20·16	34·44
Salem	22·48	18·74	19·68	25·93	26·02	21·35	20·52	29·87
Tiruchengód	22·71	18·24	18·04	24·07	24·74	19·31	18·81	26·62
Námakal	20·78	18·13	18·04	26·64	24·48	20·35	20·52	28·61
Atúr	25·23	22·04	20·50	30·39	25·58	22·54	18·81	31·24

Prices are, however, still far below the scarcity rates fixed for the district.

4. Everywhere throughout the district pasture is scanty and insufficient, and cattle are reported to be dying in Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Salem, and in some parts of Tiruchengód and Salem the water-supply for them is only obtainable with difficulty.

Drinking water is also difficult to obtain in the western parts of Salem and in Tiruchengód.

These last two are, the Collector states, the immediately pressing wants, and with a view to meet them he has taken steps to improve the drinking water-supply by improving existing wells, and sinking new ones with Local funds. With a view to supply fodder he has arranged to throw open all reserved forests and reserved lands in Námakal, Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks at reduced fees.

5. For the relief of the population affected, which consists at present of the smaller ryots and agricultural labourers, the Collector states that no special relief works are at present required. For the former it will suffice at present if loans be freely granted for sinking wells. Applications for these are being received in large numbers in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, and in order to dispose of the applications promptly the Collector requests that two extra first-class Revenue Inspectors may be sanctioned for each of the affected taluks. The Board supports this recommendation and the Collector has been authorised to appoint the Inspectors, when necessary, in anticipation of the sanction of Government.

For the agricultural labourers it will, the Collector considers, suffice for the present to put in hand the ordinary Local fund repairs of roads, village site improve-

ments and minor irrigation work repairs, and that there will be enough to provide work for those requiring it until the end of the current month. This is being done wherever needed.

6. As regards the future, the Collector considers that—

(1) If the rains in the future are good, no relief will be required.

(2) If the rains are only moderate, some relief works may be necessary in the next hot weather.

(3) If the September and the north-east monsoon rains fail, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon.

(4) If there be no improvement during the early part of September, and the rains hold off, it will be necessary to open relief works at the beginning of October.

During the week subsequent to the Collector's report, there was a fair fall of rain in the most affected areas, viz., at Omalúr and Sankaridrug.

7. With regard to the provision of work for those who may be in need of relief, the Collector's programme was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 178, and he has since been called upon to revise the list with reference to the instructions conveyed in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450. In his letter now under reference, he shows that the matter is receiving attention and his further report on this matter may be awaited. Estimates should, however, be got ready as rapidly as possible for the Local fund and minor irrigation works alluded to in paragraph 34 of his report.

8. As regards his proposal to entrust all relief works to the Public Works Department, the Board considers that this agency should be utilised to the greatest possible extent, and the Collector should, in correspondence with the Executive Engineer, determine what establishment will be required for the supervision of work on the major irrigation works which he would select for execution on failure of the September rains. In the event of its being necessary, owing to the absence of irrigation works, to employ labour on the breaking of road metal or the stacking of gravel, the Board considers that the Collector should look for assistance to the professional agency of the Local Fund Engineering Department which is accustomed to the carrying out of work of this kind, and which would of course be strengthened for the purpose.

9. The Board will be glad to have an early report as to what works can be selected in the Tiruchengód taluk in the event of distress deepening there.

10. As regards the distribution of gratuitous relief, it will be sufficient at first to establish the kitchens prescribed in section 72 of the Famine Code, sheds being erected where necessary to provide shelter for the homeless.

11. If the season does not improve the Collector desires that a Special Deputy Collector may be appointed for magisterial and appellate work of the Salem and Námakal-Tiruchengód divisions. The Board supports this proposal and also that for the appointment of Special Sub-Magistrates in the taluks alluded to so as to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. These appointments will, in the Board's opinion, only be necessary in the event of a failure of the September and October rains.

12. In the event of a failure of the September rains, or at an earlier date, if the Collector should wish it, the Commissioner will visit the district and consult with the Collector as to whether any measures for the relief of distress can be taken other than those already suggested by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Salem.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

regarding the selection of sites for poor-houses, and shall, when the time arrives, when gratuitous relief should be given, construct poor-houses with the previous sanction of the Board and Government, and make arrangements to grant such relief in accordance with the instructions on the subject in the Famine Code. I consider that the relief should be restricted to destitute women and children and to such males as are physically incapable of labour and have none to support them, and that the relief should be given in the shape of cooked food to be eaten in the poor-house.

48. To carry out relief operations, it will be necessary that the Divisional officers of Salem and Námakal and the Tahsildars of Salem and Tiruchengód should be relieved of their magisterial work, since Salem and Tiruchengód are in different divisions, and since it is necessary, under the Famine Code, that the Divisional officers should take charge of relief, I think one 1st-class Magistrate might be put in charge of the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the two divisions. As soon as relief is started Special Sub-Magistrates must be appointed in Salem and Tiruchengód to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. The relief operations in the Uttankarai taluk may be left in charge of the Head Assistant Collector and Tahsildar as it is not likely that there will be at present any necessity to carry out operations on an extended scale, in this taluk.

49. I request that necessary sanction may be obtained for the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and Magistrate to take the 1st-class magisterial and appellate work of the Deputy Collectors, who may be placed in charge of the relief operations, and of two additional Sub-Magistrates on Rs. 100 each, to relieve the Salem and Tiruchengód Tahsildars of their magisterial work.

50. The additional Sub-Magistrates will be appointed by me and application for the posting of a Deputy Collector made by telegram, when the need for them arises.

51. I am in camp inspecting the affected tracts in the Salem and Tiruchengód taluks.

Resolution—dated 8th September 1891, No. 560.

In his very carefully prepared letter read above, which will be submitted for the information of Government, the Collector reports on the condition and prospects of the Salem district, and, as regards the rainfall of the current year, summarises it as follows :— "The south-west monsoon has completely failed throughout the district and has followed a succession of bad seasons in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, especially in the Sankaridrug division and in the western part of Salem, and in the Pennagaram division of Dharmapuri, while in the Uttankarai division and the Tirupatúr division, it has followed three indifferent monsoons." In other parts of the district the position is not aggravated by previous bad seasons. That the rainfall up to date in the current season has been very deficient is shown by the following abstract :—

Taluks or stations.	October to December.		January to March.		April and May.		June to August.		April to September.
	Average.	1890.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.	Average.
Tirupatúr	12·83	6·85	0·67	1·20	4·92	2·54	10·51	5·13	21·67
Krishnagiri	10·74	17·46	1·03	2·35	4·76	3·15	9·54	4·39	19·75
Hosúr	11·85	13 30	0·94	1·43	5·23	0·38	8·54	8·67	18·35
Dharmapuri	11·07	17·68	1·19	1·60	5·32	1·84	8·39	6·50	18·42
Pennagaram	11·55	7·20	1·01	0·65	5·53	1·30	9·64	4·07	19·65
Uttankarai	12·07	5·20	0·98	1·40	4·10	0·45	9·89	4·85	19·73
Harur	13·08	8·93	1·29	3·70	3·26	2·35	9·06	2·41	16·50
Tiruchengód	9·89	12·55	0·64	1·45	4·64	2·00	6·73	3·60	15 63
Sankaridrug	10·89	4·20	0·77	1·05	5·13	2·50	8·91	4·60	18·02
Omalúr	10·08	8·03	0·71	1·55	4·09	1·50	10·67	3·59	18·79
Salem	12·13	7·68	1·19	1·69	7·15	2·38	13·89	6·89	27·79
Rasipur	11·34	7·05	0·60	1·59	4·13	3·00	10·66	5·35	18·10
Atúr	14·35	10·00	1·36	4·18	5·43	2·25	8·88	3·95	19·91
Námakal	9·78	12·12	0·69	2·25	5·44	1·20	6·48	4·15	15 17
Yercaud	21·05	15·15	1·49	5·23	8·01	1·90	23·51	10·15	40·22

Excepting in Krishnagiri, the usual heavy pre-monsoon rainfall of April and May was very deficient, and the south-west monsoon rains since then have been greatly below the average. The latter are not usually heavy during June and July, but in August usually reach to nearly 5 inches, if the Shevaroy Hills be excluded. Up to the end of August the deficiency at the stations in the most affected parts was as noted on the margin in comparison with the normal rainfall during June, July and August, which is also shown. Some rain which fell in these parts subsequent to the date of the Collector's report reduced the deficiency slightly. On the whole the rainfall of August has been very deficient throughout the district, this following on an almost dry July, but a fairly average June, which led to extensive sowings, has caused the loss of nearly all the dry crops sown under that rainfall and the ryots are thus "only the poorer by the loss of their seed."

	Normal rainfall.	Deficiency.
Uttankarai	9·89	5·04
Harur	9·06	6·65
Pennagaram	9·64	5·57
Omalúr	10·67	7 08
Sankaridrug	8·91	4·31
Tiruchengód	6·73	3·13

2. The effect of the fairly good early rains and the results of the subsequent failure may be gathered from the following table in which the actual areas sown during the current year up to July are contrasted with the average for the five years ending 1890–91:—

Taluks.	April to July.				Average, April to August.		Average annual total.	
	Average.		1891.					
	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Tirupatúr	35,265	2,478	30,437	2,408	48,420	3,894	66,943	10,326
Krishnagiri	53,092	4,165	37,749	3,615	72,116	5,805	119,866	14,609
Hosúr	22,159	4,484	10,952	4,144	56,898	6,133	85,916	9,093
Dharmapuri	57,429	4,742	48,512	4,147	91,107	6,088	170,335	15,523
Uttankarai	22,433	1,351	23,127	918	51,681	2,086	129,559	6,672
Salem	89,700	5,180	71,693	5,185	135,567	6,443	245,592	19,154
Tiruchengód	71,732	4,603	82,164	3,932	113,432	5,613	186,239	11,474
Námakal	31,413	8,106	14,039	7,238	54,505	9,423	107,000	18,619
Atúr	9,993	5,487	4,170	2,732	32,946	7,318	110,086	20,238
District Total ..	393,216	40,596	322,843	34,319	656,672	52,803	1,221,536	125,708

Up to July in the current year the area of sowings only amounted to 82 per cent. under dry and 84·5 per cent. under wet of the average figures. Up to that date in the ordinary course 32 per cent. of the dry crops should have been sown and a rather smaller proportion of the wet crops. It is on the former that the district really depends, the total area of wet crops being only 125,700 acres. In the current year, the decrease occurs in all taluks, except Tiruchengód and Uttankarai, and, in the latter, it is small. As already noted, most of these sowings have withered. The long drought in July and August also put a stop for long past to ordinary field operations. The actual area of dry land sown up to August was reported as 420,025 acres against an average, of 656,672 acres, which is nearly 54 per cent. of the total annual sowings. The proportion of these early sowings to the total for the year is normally very high in the marginally-noted taluks, but everywhere the proportion of the early sowings is very large and the situation gives cause for much anxiety. This is especially the case in the Tiruchengód, parts of the Salem, and Dharmapuri and the Uttankarai taluks. Information regarding the two last-named areas is not complete and the Collector will be requested to submit the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors' reports on the localities referred to at an early date. The reports should be made after personal inspection of the threatened tracts.

	Per cent.
Tirupatúr	72
Hosúr	66
Tiruchengód	61

3. Prices have been gradually rising in the district for several years past and in July they had shown a further rise as compared with the average rates for 1890–91. This rise, excepting at Námakal, has been continued up to the last week in August as shown in the following abstract:—

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.							
	Rice, 2nd sort.				Cholum.			
	Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tirupatúr	13·30	11·32	9·50	15·40	27·05	23·49	..	32·06
Krishnagiri	12·83	10·99	10·53	15·66	26·30	21·81	..	30·02
Hosúr	12·63	11·50	10·80	15·34	..	..	..	..
Dharmapuri	12·86	11·38	10·80	15·61	..	..	..	..
Uttankarai	11·88	11·16	9·74	14·88	..	..	..	..
Salem	11·83	10·77	10·34	14·06	21·18	19·26	18·20	26·69
Tiruchengód	11·70	11·06	10·34	15·07	20·66	16·79	16·38	25·12
Námakal	13·14	12·11	11·28	16·09	21·69	18·43	21·84	28·48
Atúr	12·85	11·64	11·28	15·91	22·11	20·70	17·29	30·40

Taluks.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee—*cont.*							
	Cumbu.				Ragi.			
	Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.	Average of 1890–91.	July 1891.	29th August 1891.	Normal for August.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tirupatúr	23·33	19·13	14·98	27·86	26·68	21·06	19·74	31·43
Krishnagiri	26 60	19·83	16·92	28·73	28·14	21·34	19·40	31·88
Hosúr	..	..	..	..	38·82	29·78	26·19	43·34
Dharmapuri	..	..	..	..	31·45	24·79	20·37	32·32
Uttankarai	25·61	22·27	17·82	30·91	28·23	23 10	20·16	34·44
Salem	22·48	18·74	19·68	25·93	26·02	21·35	20·52	29·87
Tiruchengód	22·71	18·24	18·04	24·07	24·74	19·31	18·81	26·62
Námakal	20·78	18·13	18·04	26·64	24·48	20·35	20·52	28·61
Atúr	25·23	22 04	20·50	30·39	25·58	22·54	18·81	31·24

Prices are, however, still far below the scarcity rates fixed for the district.

4. Everywhere throughout the district pasture is scanty and insufficient, and cattle are reported to be dying in Hosúr, Krishnagiri, Salem, and in some parts of Tiruchengód and Salem the water-supply for them is only obtainable with difficulty.

Drinking water is also difficult to obtain in the western parts of Salem and in Tiruchengód.

These last two are, the Collector states, the immediately pressing wants, and with a view to meet them he has taken steps to improve the drinking water-supply by improving existing wells, and sinking new ones with Local funds. With a view to supply fodder he has arranged to throw open all reserved forests and reserved lands in Námakal, Tiruchengód, Salem and Uttankarai taluks at reduced fees.

5. For the relief of the population affected, which consists at present of the smaller ryots and agricultural labourers, the Collector states that no special relief works are at present required. For the former it will suffice at present if loans be freely granted for sinking wells. Applications for these are being received in large numbers in the Tiruchengód and Salem taluks, and in order to dispose of the applications promptly the Collector requests that two extra first-class Revenue Inspectors may be sanctioned for each of the affected taluks. The Board supports this recommendation and the Collector has been authorised to appoint the Inspectors, when necessary, in anticipation of the sanction of Government.

For the agricultural labourers it will, the Collector considers, suffice for the present to put in hand the ordinary Local fund repairs of roads, village site improve-

ments and minor irrigation work repairs, and that there will be enough to provide work for those requiring it until the end of the current month. This is being done wherever needed.

6. As regards the future, the Collector considers that—

(1) If the rains in the future are good, no relief will be required.

(2) If the rains are only moderate, some relief works may be necessary in the next hot weather.

(3) If the September and the north-east monsoon rains fail, there will be distress amounting to famine in the affected parts gradually intensifying till next south-west monsoon.

(4) If there be no improvement during the early part of September, and the rains hold off, it will be necessary to open relief works at the beginning of October.

During the week subsequent to the Collector's report, there was a fair fall of rain in the most affected areas, viz., at Omalúr and Sankaridrug.

7. With regard to the provision of work for those who may be in need of relief, the Collector's programme was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1891, No. 178, and he has since been called upon to revise the list with reference to the instructions conveyed in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd July 1891, No. 450. In his letter now under reference, he shows that the matter is receiving attention and his further report on this matter may be awaited. Estimates should, however, be got ready as rapidly as possible for the Local fund and minor irrigation works alluded to in paragraph 34 of his report.

8. As regards his proposal to entrust all relief works to the Public Works Department, the Board considers that this agency should be utilised to the greatest possible extent, and the Collector should, in correspondence with the Executive Engineer, determine what establishment will be required for the supervision of work on the major irrigation works which he would select for execution on failure of the September rains. In the event of its being necessary, owing to the absence of irrigation works, to employ labour on the breaking of road metal or the stacking of gravel, the Board considers that the Collector should look for assistance to the professional agency of the Local Fund Engineering Department which is accustomed to the carrying out of work of this kind, and which would of course be strengthened for the purpose.

9. The Board will be glad to have an early report as to what works can be selected in the Tiruchengód taluk in the event of distress deepening there.

10. As regards the distribution of gratuitous relief, it will be sufficient at first to establish the kitchens prescribed in section 72 of the Famine Code, sheds being erected where necessary to provide shelter for the homeless.

11. If the season does not improve the Collector desires that a Special Deputy Collector may be appointed for magisterial and appellate work of the Salem and Námakal-Tiruchengód divisions. The Board supports this proposal and also that for the appointment of Special Sub-Magistrates in the taluks alluded to so as to relieve the Tahsildars of all magisterial work. These appointments will, in the Board's opinion, only be necessary in the event of a failure of the September and October rains.

12. In the event of a failure of the September rains, or at an earlier date, if the Collector should wish it, the Commissioner will visit the district and consult with the Collector as to whether any measures for the relief of distress can be taken other than those already suggested by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Salem.
Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Order—dated 23rd September 1891, No. 897, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs generally in the Board's remarks. He considers it desirable that the Commissioner should visit the district and consult with the Collector at once.

2. The action reported in paragraph 5 of the Proceedings is approved.

3. The Government will be prepared to sanction the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector and of Special Sub-Magistrates, as recommended in paragraph 11, should necessity arise.

4. The attention of the Public Works Department is invited to paragraphs 37 and 46 of the Collector's letter. The Collector will be asked by wire how many Public Works Department subordinates will be required if relief works have to be opened at the beginning of October.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Works Department (Irrigation).
„ the Public Works Department (Works).
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

90 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 8th September 1891, No. 560 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., Collector and District Magistrate of Salem, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated Salem, 29th August 1891, No. 1858 :—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the state of the season and the condition and prospects of the district.

2. *Rainfall.*—The following statement shows the rainfall of the years 1888–89, 1889–90 and 1890–91, compared with the average of the ten years ending 1887–88 and the average of the six years previous to the famine :—

Rain-registering stations.	Average rainfall of the six years ending 1875–76.		Average of 10 years ending 1887–88.		1888–89.		1889–90.		1890–91.	
	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.	April to September.	October to March.
Salem Taluk.	Stationwar particulars not available.	Do.								
Salem			29·27	15·46	22·55	11·59	38·49	12·24	21·52	9·37
Rasipur			17·08	12·89	17·70	8·00	28·75	6·43	17·63	8·55
Omalúr			18·35	10·95	16·68	8·33	25·14	11·76	22·46	9·58
			21·57	13·08	18·97	9·31	30·79	10·14	20·53	9·16
Atúr Taluk.										
Atúr			20·82	16·10	20·35	15·25	24·75	9·75	23·14	14·18
Námakal Taluk.										
Námakal			16·02	13·60	13·26	3·93	29·10	9·28	9·25	15·20
Paramathi			13·29	9·71	9·90	11·58	20·00	7·89	9·65	13·55
			14·65	11·65	11·58	7·75	24·55	8·58	9·45	14·37
Tiruchengód Taluk.										
Tiruchengód .. .			15·19	12 59	13·11	6·10	21·55	8·90	8·80	14·00
Sankaridrug			18·41	12·48	9·61	7·30	22·51	7·73	14·13	5·25
			16·80	12.53	11·36	6·70	22·03	8·32	11·46	9·62
Dharmapuri Taluk.										
Dharmapuri			20·25	15·11	19·88	13·74	23·14	8·77	13·20	17·40
Pennagaram			19·87	13·64	13·83	5·03	24·45	9·80	16·10	7·85
			20·06	14·37	16·85	9·38	23·79	9·28	14·65	12·62