

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 11/12/80
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10-2

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

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அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	866	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	16-3-1882	198

மடிக்கலோ கண்டபடி கையாளலோ கூடாது

3 Sheets 8/10

8TH MARCH 1892, No. 236, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th February 1892, No. 150 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following paper :—

No. 161.

FAMINE RELIEF WORKS.

Nandavaram.

There were 29 gangs employed over $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Nandavaram-Nagaldinne road. Of these, there were men 748, nursing mothers 585, women 617, and children 597, making a total of 2,547 labourers.

2. The villages from which the coolies were principally drawn were the following :—

Names.	Numbers.	Distance in miles.
Nandavaram	600	...
Nagaldinne	200	5
Kanakavedu	200	3
Mugati	200	6
Marsapuram	200	4
Kampadbapuram	150	5
Halhurry	100	3
Chellakodonna	100	6
Soganur	100	6
Sulla Kulla	100	4
Timmapuram	50	5
Gangavaram	50	5
Poore Chinta	50	4
Gudikal	50	3
Manavalse	50	8
Yemmiganur	50	12
Peddakotali	50	6
Keeravadu	50	3
Chinnakotali	50	5
Guruyetta	40	3
Hotchholli	10	25
Melasomapuram	10	5

3. The task imposed was of the 3rd class and comprised roughly for—

	Per gang.
	C. YDS.
Gravel	48
Earth	55
Metal	6

4. The wages received on the 19th instant were as follows :—

	Men.	Nursing mothers.	Women.	Children.
	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.
Maximum wage per head per day ..	1 5	1 5	1 2	0 9
Minimum " " " " ..	0 7	0 7	0 6	0 4

5. Price of grain—

	Per rajas.
Cholum, white and yellow	SEKAS.
Rice	14-15
Ragi	8
Corra	17
	13

There were ample stocks of wholesome grain in the Nandavaram bazaars.

6. *General health.*—The health of the coolies was good; and there was nothing in their physical condition to distinguish them from ordinary gang labourers. Sore eyes prevailed to a certain extent amongst the children, and a few cases of guinea-worm were noticed, but there was no case of emaciation from starvation; as a class however, they looked less well-to-do than the Chippagiri workers and there was (I think) a larger proportion of very old men and women employed.

7. *Remarks.*—Here, as at Chippagiri, none of the coolies camp on the works. They go from and return to their villages each day. It would appear that not a few of them would be glad to camp near the works, if shelter could be found. The country around is absolutely devoid of any shelter—an exposed level plain of black-cotton soil. There is no water at hand, and the nights are bitterly cold. Some difficulty is experienced in the supply of water during working hours. At present two carts are employed; but there were many complaints as to the insufficiency of the supply. Considering the dryness of the weather and the nature of the work, I should recommend the employment of an additional cart.

Payments.—The coolies are paid once in three days and the duty appears to be discharged with efficiency and regularity. The payment of "subsistence batta" to new arrivals should, if possible, be made on the day of their joining.

The striking feature in the wage-rate appears to be the great difference in average earnings. With the supervision provided (and indeed during hours of my inspection I did not detect any idling), the outturn of the various gangs should approximate one another; but they do not do so. This variation I believe to be due to the disproportion between the elements composing each gang. Now an excess of nursing mothers—who are only nominal workers—must seriously impede the outturn of work; the payments made on the day of my visit support this view.

		Men.	Nursing mothers.	Women.	Children.	
Composition of gang ..	Receiving rates maximum ..	16	18	18	19	71
	Receiving rates minimum ..	12	21	14	17	64

From a reference to the foregoing list of villages it will be seen that not a small proportion of the coolies have to travel from six to eight miles to and from the works (spreading over four miles); with women and children this distance means a walk of between two and three hours both morning and evening. They leave their homes soon after it is light (having prepared their midday and, in many cases, evening meal); remain on the works all day and return to their houses long after night-fall. Owing, however, to the novelty of the work, the want of system amongst the individual workers, and, in some cases, to the faulty organization of the gangs, the outturn of day's labour is small, and the wage earned is about half the lowest rate of "subsistence allowance." The labourers believe that they have done a hard day's work, and when they receive for it a wage of seven pies or less, they cannot understand it and are naturally discontented and disheartened. They would give up the work, but they

have nothing else to fall back upon. I think it may be accepted, for the present at least, that with many of these people labour is an actual necessity. This being so, it seems to me that (if it is inadmissible to make the lowest wage earned by a day's work equal to the recognised "subsistence allowance," every endeavour should be made to give the ordinary men and women workers a fair chance—at present they are terribly handicapped with nursing mothers. [The infants vary in age from two weeks to 18 months. There were two pairs of twins on the works. In one case the mother was deserted by her husband, she herself looked fairly well, but the infants (a year old) were stunted and looked like children of six months' growth, but they bore no resemblance to the well known wizened infant of famine years. This woman claimed an extra allowance, but the superintendent of the works did not see his way to grant it, the case not being provided for in the rules!] Nursing mothers do little or no work, and their numbers ought to be wholly or partially excluded from a gang in computation for wages; because, if the presumption is true, and I believe that it is absolutely true with 50 per cent. of the coolies, that they have no resources other than the receipts from the relief works, some measures ought to be planned by which a *subsistence allowance at least* will be ensured for them. If this is not done, and that in time, the inevitable result amongst those who have been partially starved for some time continuously will be emaciation and disease. It should be easy to fix maximum rates so that none excepting those who are sorely distressed would be induced to resort to the relief works.

8. The villages of Devegutta, Yemmiganur, Mugati, Nandavaram, Chillakadonna, Sogur, Raichmari and Bellagal were visited to discover, if possible, any evidences of unusual distress and privation, but the results in all cases were negative.

(Signed) W. O'HARA, Surgeon-Major,
District Surgeon, Bellary.

19th January 1892.

Endorsement by R. SEWELL, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated 25th January 1892, Ref. No. 598.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras.

Resolution—dated 25th February 1892, No. 150.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Commissioner visited the Chippagiri works during the last week in January after the District Surgeon's visit, but before receipt of his report. He agrees with the District Surgeon in considering that there was nothing in the physical condition of the coolies to distinguish them from ordinary gang laborers, but there seemed no reason to doubt that the majority were in real need of employment, and the Commissioner determined, after consultation with the Collector, to open a kitchen there which would relieve the workers of all cost of maintenance of the young children and the aged of their families unable to work. He saw reason also to direct that on those particular works fixing for short work in the case of metal gangs should not be allowed to reduce the wage below the sum fixed in the code as the subsistence allowance—a wage which compares with the third-class wage as under:—

	Man.	Woman.	Child.
Third class ..	1 1/2 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..	1 1/2 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..	1 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..
Subsistence ..	1 1/2 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..	1 1/2 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..	1 lb. grain .. + 1/2 anna ..

This step was taken because stones are so scarce and so scattered in the particular tract through which the road passes that the fixing of a suitable task is a matter of very great difficulty. It was not found necessary to make the same rule in the case of gravel gangs. The task, the Commissioner found, could always be done if the gang chose to do it and many gravel gangs earned more than the full third-class wage.

3. The Commissioner does not consider that the failure of the gangs on the Nandavaram road to earn full wage was due to the large number of nursing mothers in particular gangs. Where not due to the fact that stones were not obtainable within the distance on which the work was calculated, he found it generally due to sheer idleness—idleness which was noticeable far more in the low caste gangs—Malas and Madigas—than in those of higher caste. The Collector, however, has full power under the Code to form weakly gangs, and it is perhaps advisable that where nursing mothers are numerous they should be put into separate gangs. They need not be separated by any distance from the rest of their families. The establishment of kitchens will probably, however, enable a large proportion of the children now fed at the breast to be fed otherwise.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th February 1892, No. 151:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following extract from a letter from J. McINERNEY, Esq., Local Fund Engineer, Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 18th February 1892, No. 233:—

7. *Condition of coolies.*—You will remember that the physique of the coolies here was at the opening of the works generally below that of Chippagiri. Well, I looked about as much as I could to-day and the impression I received was that the coolies are not a whit weaker or poorer looking than when I saw them the first day. I particularly questioned whether some robust healthy-looking men and women had been with us from the beginning. Yes, these came the first day and have worked ever since. I think you will be glad to hear this. The work generally here is more trying than at Chippagiri or elsewhere. There is not a shrub to shelter the babies and we are working on an upland exposed to every breath of breeze that blows; for the whole 7 miles there is not a drop of water. As I say if we get through the next 40 days, as I have no doubt we shall, we shall be over the worst of the work.

Endorsement by the Collector of Bellary, dated 23rd February 1892, Gl. Egr. No. 635.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras, for information.

Resolution—dated 25th February 1892, No. 151.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, No. 150, of this date.

2. The Commissioner is glad to receive Mr. McInerney's testimony to the efficiency of the famine wage in keeping the coolies in condition on the Nandavaram road.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

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

ORDER—dated 8th March 1892, No. 236, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the first of the Proceedings read above, the Government considers that in the case of nursing mothers on all relief works, the task should be so reduced as to enable them to earn the subsistence allowance at least. The Board of Revenue will issue the necessary instructions to the Collectors concerned.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

75 Copies.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

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Recd. 15.3.92

Encl.

G.O., 8th March 1892, No. 236.

MARCH

Famine-relief works.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Bellary forwarding copy of the District Surgeon's report on — at Nandavaram, considering that in the case of nursing mothers on all relief works the task should be so reduced as to enable them to earn the subsistence allowance at least and requesting the Board of Revenue to issue the necessary instructions to the Collectors concerned.

No. 866 Wd/16 March 1892

Communicated to
officers of the Public Works
Department for infor-
mation and guidance
with reference to para
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