

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1130W

DATED 1st May 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tasks

Proceedings, Revenue Dept, recording in the remarks Board's Proceedings communicating, with remarks, G.O. stating that — may be reduced to suit the physical condition of any gang of relief workers, communicated to Suptg. Engineers.

o. L. S. 22

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 25th February 1897, No. 159 :—

Read—the following G.O., No. 108, Revenue, dated 19th February 1897 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 5th February 1897, No. 100 :—

Read—the following letter from Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Maddikera, 18th January 1897, No. 179-S. :—

I have the honour to state that, having carefully inspected the condition of the population of Pattikonda in regard to the prevailing high price of food-grains, I am of opinion that the opening of a relief work in the immediate neighbourhood of Pattikonda is essential. The class of labourers usually obtaining their living by assisting in agricultural operations and various forms of petty labour in village life, is in urgent need of aid. My observations show that numerous families have been for nearly two months past without labour sufficiently regular or remunerative to provide a sufficiency of food. Thus, whilst it is true that labour is not entirely absent, it is also true that it can only be obtained fitfully, and, in consequence, many families are living upon less than half their normal amount of food. This morning, after my inspection and after explaining to the people the nature of the Government famine wage, I invited those that were willing to work to assemble near my camp. Within three-quarters of an hour, 240 persons assembled and professed their eagerness to undertake work. This may be accepted simply as a sample of what the demand may be, not of its limit. Of those assembled, I found the following results :—

Health conditions of persons seeking employment on relief works, Pattikonda.

	Men.						Women.						Children.					
	Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Malas ..	4	44.4	5	55.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	52.3	1	7.7	..	..
Madigas ..	13	54.2	11	45.8	..	..	20	43.5	16	34.8	10	21.7	10	47.6	11	52.4	..	..
Muhammadians ..	9	37.5	10	41.7	5	20.8	2	16.7	7	58.3	3	25.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bovas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	15.4	6	46.2	5	38.4	16	59.3	11	40.7	..	..
Oobravas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	25.0	8	50.0	4	25.0	5	38.5	8	61.5	..	..
Kuruvas ..	11	50.0	8	36.4	3	13.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	37	46.8	34	43.1	8	10.1	28	32.2	37	42.5	22	25.3	43	55.1	31	41.9	..	..

2. It will be observed that the effects of deprivation differ greatly according to castes—the Mala woman being singularly free. I may add, for your information, that the state of the children presents a strong contrast with that found in the Bellary district, which I have just inspected—inimical influence on children being there rarely found. Taking into consideration the condition of the labourer as shown above, I would advise that B rates be offered, and that, until their strength be regained, the task given be as light as is consistent with reason, and the distances from the town be as little as possible.

Resolution—dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It will be observed that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King reports that near Pattikonda, in Kurnool, many families were, at the time of his visit in January, living upon less than half their usual amount of food, and that he found that 55 per cent. of the 240 persons who came to him as being willing to accept work at Famine Code wages were in poor or bad condition. At Maddikera, the Sanitary Commissioner found the people to be in absolute need of food and the poorer classes showing undoubted signs of privation. He considers that the people at Pattikonda will need special consideration if it is to be hoped that they can recover lost ground. This is scarcely possible to expect under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers, laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. Works have been opened at Pattikonda and Maddikera since the time of Surgn.-Lt.-Col. King's visit and most of the workers have been placed in class C. In the wage of this class, there is no margin allowed over the "equivalent to a ration sufficient to keep an able-bodied labourer in health and strength"—*vide* Government of India circular, No. 6-44, dated 17th March 1892.

Order—No. 108, Revenue, dated 19th February 1897.

In paragraph 2 of his letter the Sanitary Commissioner recommends that the labourers in Pattikonda be offered B class wages and that they be given light tasks till they regain their strength; whereon the Board remarks that this is scarcely possible under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. In paragraph 1 clause 2 of this G.O., however, it is stated that under section 107 of the Famine Code the tasks can be altered with the consent of the Collector. The enfeebled condition of the labourers and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power which the Collector possesses under the section.

2. The report called for in paragraph 3 should be submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Settlement).
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.
" Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, No. 159.

The order read above will be communicated to the Collector of Kurnool and to all other Collectors for information and guidance in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th February 1897, No. 98.

2. In paragraph 2 of the Proceedings quoted, the Board stated that, so far as it was then able to determine, the task of a gang could not be reduced except by reducing its class. Collectors will observe that, under the ruling now issued, it is permissible for them to also reduce the task in any case under section 107 so as to meet the special circumstances of the relief-workers in any place or on any work, and thus avoid the hardship of placing them on reduced wages. Under this ruling, it will be advisable for Collectors to call upon their Engineer officers to specify what may

be regarded as the appropriate tasks for workers in (1) good, (2) fair and (3) low condition, much as is done in the North-Western Provinces (*vide* page 11 of G.O., No. 14, Revenue, dated 9th January 1897). The officers in charge of works will then have less difficulty in applying a task suitable to the condition of the workers. Collectors must also bear in mind that, as no two gangs are exactly the same in sex proportions and strength, no absolutely hard and fast line in tasking is possible, and the case of each gang must, when necessary, be considered on its merits.

3. The Collector of Kurnool will be requested to expedite the report mentioned in paragraph 2 of the Government Order.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Kurnool.
„ all other Collectors.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

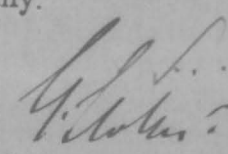
ORDER—No. 217, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

the Board apparently intends that a scale should be laid down for the guidance of local officers for varying the standard tasks of the Code so as to suit the nature of the work and the physical condition and composition of the gangs. It appears to Government that no general rules can be of much use to provide for circumstances which vary so much even from day to day and in which reliance must be placed in the last resort on the local officers using their discretion fully.

(True Extract.)


Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

—♦—

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 217, 30th March 1897.

Order thereon No. 1130 W of 1.5.97

*Communicated to
Superintending Engineers.*

MARCH.

*(True extract)
H. D. C.*

To the Supt. Engineers.

Tasks.

Board's Proceedings communicating, with remarks, Government Order stating that —
may be reduced to suit the physical condition of any gang of relief workers, recorded with
remarks.

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(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Erd. Shaik Karim

50 Copies.