

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1427 W

DATED 26 March 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Revenue: Pro: Revenue Dept defining the duties and responsibilities of the officers deputed to duty and laying down some principles which should guide the Revenue Commissioners & the Collectors in their selection, Govt to S.E.S.

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assign at their discretion either routine work or famine
Rev. Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.
Relief officer (S. 25) Special Civil Officer (S. 26)

They are to be appointed only in special cases, the famine
Relief Officer when the distress is severe and the ordinary
famine organization is found insufficient, and the Special
Civil Officer when there is some large work on hand requiring

ORDER, No. 316 dated 11th May 1897.

In view of a possible failure of the next s. w.
monsoon rains and the deepening of distress which will en-
sue thereon, His Excellency the Governor in Council consid-
ers it necessary to draw prominent attention to the provi-
sions of the Famine Code relating to the duties and respon-
sibilities of the officers that are being deputed to famine
duty, and to lay down some principles which should guide
the Famine Commissioner and the Collectors in their selec-
tion.

2. The Famine Code lays down the framework of what may be
called the ordinary famine organization of the district.
The principle is briefly to place a famine officer at the
back of each regular officer; thus the Collector gets a
Special Assistant (S. 25), the Divisional Officer a Special
Divisional Officer (S. 26), the Tahsildar a Special Tahsil-
dar or a Deputy Tahsildar and so on. The territorial limits
of the additional officers should correspond as much as pos-
sible in sphere and jurisdiction with those of the perma-
nent officers whom they are to assist, in order that as dis-
tress deepens or decreases, the new men may be added or tak-
en away without disturbance or confusion. The code contem-
plates that the new officer should take up the routine
work of the office, setting free the presumably more ex-
perienced permanent officer to take up the more arduous
work of famine relief. As however a hard and fast rule of
this kind is likely to cause inconvenience in cases in which
the permanent officer is less fit for famine duty than the
officer deputed to relieve him, Collectors are empowered to

their duties are clearly defined in Sec. 55 of the Code. The chief qualifications required are great activity and endurance, earnestness, perseverance and sympathy with the people, and should the supply of officers of this type run short, it will be necessary to incur on other departments of Government to meet the demand. Where Taluk Relief Officers are appointed it will generally be unnecessary to entertain special Civil Officers to look after individual works as, except in very special cases, the former would be able to do all the relief work required within their charge. 8. Where distress is not acute, it should suffice to relieve the Tahsildar of his ordinary duties by the appointment of an extra Deputy Tahsildar or Submagistrate and make him discharge the duties of Taluk Relief Officer as contemplated by the Code. Such relief may temporarily be necessary even in cases where Taluk Relief Officers are permanently may be appointed, as the Tahsildar is certain to be exceptionally heavy and the Tahsildar must be continuously on the move to help the Taluk Relief Officer to get village relief organized and the work of Circle Inspectors checked. The speedy disposal of loan applications is one of the primary duties of the Tahsildars in times of famine and the above relief may have to be continued, even after the famine, in taluks where the loan operations are considerable, but not such as to necessitate the appointment of a Special Officer for the work. 9. For administering village relief it will be necessary to appoint Circle Relief Inspectors in varying numbers according to the acuteness of distress, and the areas and population to be dealt with. The appointment of such officers wherever necessary has already been sanctioned, but it is especially in the Deccan districts, in finding a sufficient number of suitable men for the posts. Difficulty too will be experienced even at an earlier stage in regard to

the provision of trustworthy paymasters and of kitchen superintendents. If poor houses become necessary, a higher class of men will be required for their superintendence. In regard to all these classes of officers the Board of Revenue will be empowered to draft in suitable men from the nonaffected districts.

8. The Government has recently sanctioned the appointment of certain special officers for the supervision of weavers' relief and for loan operations; and more aid will be given to the Collectors of affected districts, as necessity arises for administering these two branches of relief. The duties of these special officers have been defined in the orders sanctioning their appointment; their territorial jurisdiction will be determined from time to time by Collectors.

(True Extract)

Ag. Secretary to Govt.

12 516 of 11 May 1917

To the Board of Rev. R.S.

- " R. W. Dept.
- " Finl. Dept.
- " L & M. Dept.
- " Accountant General.

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(True Extract)

[Signature]

As. Secretary to Govt.

To the Board of Rev. B.S.
 " P. W. Dept.
 " Finl. Dept.
 " L & M. Dept.
 " Accountant General.

[Signature]

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The Registrar
Revenue Dept

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[Signature]
15/5/17

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