

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1511 W

DATED 4 June 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief operations: Pro: Revenue Dept recording
Boards Pro: Comrs: to all Collectors ^{with memo} for order draw-
ing attention to the necessity of making all pre-
parations for starting relief operations in case the
S.W. monsoon fails, Comr to officers of the P.W.D.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
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FURTHER PAPERS.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1897.

Spare copies

Printed May th.

Proceedings, 10th May 1897, No. 352.

MAY.

Relief operations.—Communicating to all Collectors, with remarks, Government Order, Revenue Department, drawing attention to the necessity of making all preparations for starting — in case the south-west monsoon fails.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

Read—the following G.O., No. 304, Revenue, dated 6th May 1897:—

Order—No. 304, Revenue, dated 6th May 1897.

Even a partial failure of the next south-west monsoon is likely to lead to a very considerable extension of the distressed area in the Presidency besides greatly accentuating the scarcity and suffering in the districts already affected, and His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the next month or two should be utilized in getting things ready for this possibility. The attention of the Collectors of all districts, especially of the non-affected ones, should therefore be drawn to the urgent necessity of having programmes of famine relief-works prepared in advance and of providing a sufficient number of sanctioned works ready to be started whenever required in places likely to be seriously affected. The division of the district into village relief circles, the localities where poor-houses and kitchens will be most wanted, and the extra establishments likely to be required are also matters that should be thought out in advance. It is of the utmost importance that District officers should be prepared on all points for the contingency of serious distress next July; all the detailed enquiries prescribed in section 75 of the Famine Code should be completed by the 15th June, plans for circle inspections laid down, men designated for the charges, and works made ready for immediate opening by the provision of tools, staff and the like.

2. The experience of the past four months has brought out prominently that the Public Works Department is generally unable to start the works proposed by Collectors at short notice, and that considerable delay is frequently caused in the opening of relief-works by the insufficiency of the Public Works staff. Orders have already been issued that relief-works should in the first instance be taken up by the ordinary Public Works staff of the district and that their opening should in no case be delayed pending the arrival of special officers deputed from other districts. Superintending Engineers will now be instructed to frame for each district, in consultation with the Collector, a forecast of the probable requirements as regards staff, tools, &c., and submit it to the Chief Engineer as early as possible,

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture).
" Public Works Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" other Departments of the Secretariat.

RESOLUTION—dated 10th May 1897, No. 352.

Communicated to all Collectors.

2. Programmes of famine relief-works have been received from the Collectors of all districts except the following—Górávari, Chingleput and North Arcot. The Collectors of the districts named should submit their programmes without further delay.

3. The Collector is solely responsible for the efficiency of all measures of relief within his district. Orders have been passed on the famine relief programmes already received, and any modifications or additions that have been ordered must be made without delay. Assuming that his programme is complete, the Collector will have to satisfy himself as to the adequacy of the establishments for the supervision of works and the administration of gratuitous relief. He should place himself in communication with the Superintending Engineer of his circle and the Executive Engineer of his district and learn from them the strength of the existing staff of the Public Works Department in his district, and the strength to which they consider it should be augmented; he must remember, however, that, as he is the responsible officer, it is for him to decide what establishment will be necessary. Lists of tools available for use in each district have been forwarded to each Collector with B.P., dated 4th May 1897, No. 3113, and reply as to the sufficiency of the supplies should be submitted without delay. It rests with the Collector to find paymasters for all works. Each Collector should consider the number of such officers he will require, and should designate men to fill such appointments as far as possible; an estimate should be made of the number of extra hands that may be required for these posts.

With regard to the administration of gratuitous relief, each Collector should at once parcel out his district into village relief circles, select sites for poor-houses and kitchens, and institute enquiries as to the persons likely to require relief under section 75 of the Madras Famine Code. He should note that Government requires these enquiries under section 75 to be completed by June 15th. Officers should be designated for the various circles, poor-houses and kitchens as far as district establishments permit, and an estimate should be made of the number of extra hands that will be required for these purposes, in the event of the failure of the monsoon.

Collectors will be requested to report by May 31st, for the information of the Board, the way in which they have carried out the orders of Government read above and the state of preparedness of their district to meet famine, giving their opinions as to the adequacy of existing staffs and stating clearly to what extent they will require to be augmented.

4. The Collectors of affected districts will be requested to revise their famine-relief programmes and add new and useful works to take the place of those that have been completed.

5. The Board had resolved before the receipt of the present order to draw the attention of Government to the inadequacy of the subordinate staff of the Medical, Public Works and Revenue Departments to meet distress even within the present limited areas; but the Proceedings, which will be shortly submitted, was kept back in order that the correct figures of the special establishments entertained for famine purposes in each district might be obtained from the monthly returns for April now due.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To all Collectors.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue, Rev. Sett Press No. 352 dated 10th May 1897.

Order thereon, Wis. No. 2629 dated 22nd May 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

As Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue, Rev. Sett.

Copy to the P.W. Dept.

Public Dept.

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Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue, Rev. Set. Press No. 373 dated 10th May 1897.

Order in Council, No. 3829 dated 24th May 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue, Rev. Set.
Copy to the P.W. Dept.
Public Dept.

10/5/97

10/5/97