Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1605 W

Dated 12 June 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jammu: Pros: Revenue dept: sending Board's Pro: submitting the fortnightly narrative of the Special Asst: Agent Godavari Dt: for the period ending 25th ult: and a report on the Condition of the Koyas in the Bhadrachalam taluk, Compt: & E. I. Circle.

[P.W. 26. 5,000—30-11-96.]

12.6.97

Indexed. D 14/6

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public works (1897) Department

Current No. 5448

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 2 - 6 — } 1897.
Regd. — " — }

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 358, 19th May 1897.

No. 1605 W & 12. 6. 97

1421 W, dt 26-5-97
1159 W, 5-5-97
1080 W, 12-4-97
271 W, 27-1-97

MAY.

Communicated to the Supdg Engr I Circle.

CWOs 5/6/97.

S.S. I Circle No. 4516

Section 16 para 2 12/6/97

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Special Assistant Agent, Gódávari District, for the period ending 25th March 1897, and a report on the condition of the Koyas in the Bhadráchalam taluk.

OLS 186 9/16

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd May 1897, No. 331 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S.,L.R. and Agri.), dated 22nd April 1897, Mis. No. 2909 :—

Read—the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódávari, to the Collector of Gódávari, dated Camp, Maredumilli, 1st April 1897, Tour Dis. No. 16-S.A.A., and endorsement thereon by the Collector of Gódávari, dated 8th April 1897, Dis. No. 1231-Ver. :—

In continuation of my Lis. No. 349-S.A.A., dated 12th March 1897, I have the honour to report that I am now in a position to give a reliable estimate of the ippa flowers. On the average throughout the Bhadráchalam taluk the crop may be taken as half the usual outturn. This will, in my opinion, be sufficient to pull the people through till the rains, for whereas in ordinary years when the crop is good there is a great waste of the flowers; in this year the Koyas are carefully looking after the produce of each tree and this economy should balance the deficiency. The state of the crop therefore has relieved me from considerable anxiety, for I have come to the conclusion, as already reported, that when the rains come in addition to the work of bamboo cutting, &c., which will afford employment to the hillmen, the Koyas will be able to obtain an abundant supply of roots from the jungle.

2. This is the opinion which I have formed after very careful enquiry among the Koyas and it is too the opinion of the Tahsildar. But I feel bound to mention that Mr. Ward who, in B.P., dated 19th January 1897, No. 42, is spoken of as fully enjoying the confidence of the Koyas does not agree. He says that during the monsoon no fruits of any description can be obtained and no roots of any description. This practically means, of course, that all those who are not fortunate enough to get work will starve. Under any circumstances, of course, it will be necessary for us to be on the look out constantly for the Koyas at the best of times live from hand-to-mouth. For the present they have tuniki fruit which is getting exhausted—and by the way it was a bumper crop wholly unexpected and most useful;—they have tamarinds; they pound the seeds into "Umbali" for food and barter the fruit for cholam; they have various roots such as naroda and jimea thumpalu and the rain which fell recently on the 23rd and 24th March has been most useful in bringing them out. They have various kinds of leaves such as coddi muralu and finally they have the ippa flowers which they are busily engaged in collecting and drying in the sun. Most part will be used as food, any surplus that may remain will be sold to the abkári contractors for cholam. The recent rain has benefited the crop.

Should there be, later on towards the end of May or in any subsequent month, real indications of any distress, test works may again be started, but I do not now anticipate that there will be any such necessity. I have ordered the Tahsildar and his subordinates to be constantly touring through the interior so that they may keep me thoroughly informed. On being satisfied as to the state of the ippa crop I left Bhadráchalam taluk on the 29th March and am now travelling through Chodavaram division.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Godávari, dated Polavaram, 8th April 1897, Dis. No. 1231-Ver.

Submitted.

2. It is much to be regretted that there is still uncertainty as to the future in Bhadráchalam and that the Special Assistant Agent is not in accord with Mr. Ward and Mr. Cain of Dumagudem. Of the three I am personally inclined to think him

the most reliable guide for he has now been for about six weeks in the taluk, gone over the whole of it from Waddigudem to Dumagudem along the Gódávari and from Latchigudem to Chintur along the foot of the hills, and his information is, he says, based upon what the Koyas themselves have told him. He and the Tahsildar agree that the taluk is now safe till the rains set in and that after that, there is no cause for anxiety. Mr. Ward, who, I believe, said originally there would be distress requiring relief from January till the rains, now writes to the *Madras Mail* or Famine Committee, which is much the same thing, that the people can carry on till June, *i.e.* the rains, but then will have nothing till October. Mr. Cain goes further and says the Koyas are now suffering; wherein he differs from both, but the Special Assistant informs me that he has not visited any of the interior villages and so, must be basing his information upon what he is told by Koyas who go to see him and, as these knew that he is giving relief they naturally draw the most harrowing picture they can of their sufferings with a view to exciting his compassion and securing some of his charity for themselves.

3. The manner in which the Koyas boycotted the relief works does not look like acute distress at present, and one of the reasons given by Mr. Cain at the time in a private letter to me was that the river side sowcars were in great measure responsible as they did their best to dissuade the Koyas from going near them by offering them better wages themselves for timber cutting and timber hauling and bandy driving, &c. There can be no doubt they did so and that this had some effect, for it is significant that three times more timber including bamboos, is coming down the river this year than usual.

4. As Mr. Ward and Mr. Hughes are agreed that the taluk is safe till June we may, I think, safely accept this fact; as regards the future (that is after June), I have written to Messrs. Cain & Ward asking the former if he can suggest any feasible means of relieving distress other than gratuitous relief, for, he says the Koyas won't come to relief works, and the latter in addition his reasons for asserting the Koyas will starve as soon as the rains set in. Personally I have been under the impression that all danger would be at an end with the setting in of the monsoon, not only because jungle vegetation will at once revive, but also because the Koyas will then have little difficulty in getting the river side sowcars to finance them through the cultivation season on the usual terms—a cent per cent. mortgage or thereabouts on the crop raised.

5. I am now on my way up to Rampa, and if the replies I receive from Messrs. Ward & Cain make me think there is good reason to believe them, will go on to Bhadráchalam, though this must necessarily throw my other work back and cause much inconvenience at this time of year. The state of things too may become critical in May in parts of the Rajahmundry and Peddápuram taluks. They are not so at present. I am thankful to say, but the ice we are standing on is not so thick as I should like it to be. A few more thunder showers at fairly regular intervals would be a great boon, as in that quarter it would secure the summer gingelly that a good many ryots have put down and keep the cattle going as regards pasture.

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2. The Collector will be requested to report more definitely about the condition of Rajahmundry and Peddápuram taluks at an early date. This is the first intimation the Board has received of any anxiety for this part of the district.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, Collector of Gódávari.

Read—also the following fortnightly narrative of the Special Assistant Agent, Gódávari, completed from information received up to 25th March 1897 :—

STATE OF COUNTRY.

Crops.—No standing crops.

Fodder.—Generally sufficient.

Water-supply.—Considerable difficulty is experienced in getting water for drinking purposes. Some people have to go a long way to fetch it. Others dig pits in the vagus and obtain water therefrom. None for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural operations.—Preparing and burning "Podus."

Cattle.—There is cattle disease in some villages of Polavaram and Bhadráchalam ; also in the Dutcharti mutta of Yellavaram division.

General remarks on above subjects.—The health of the people is on the whole good and their physical condition is satisfactory. There does not appear to be any actual distress from want of food. The small stock of grain is supplemented by tamarinds, roots and leaves and by Ippa flowers in the Bhadráchalam taluk. The Ippa crop is 8 annas. There is also toddy available. The dry remission which has been now sanctioned will give further relief. There was some rain on 23rd and 24th March which has been useful.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

On works.—No works going on just at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people is generally satisfactory. The children appear to be very well cared for and the physical condition of young girls and women is normal. There does not appear to be any distress for want of food.

Mortality.—None from want of food.

RELIEF MEASURES.

Relief works—In what taluks open.—None.

Remarks.—Bhadráchalam taluk is the most affected part of the division. The Ippa trees have, however, yielded on the average an 8-anna crop which should pull the people through till the rains. I do not anticipate any necessity for opening relief works.

GRAIN SUPPLY.

Private trade active or not ; whether in rice or dry staple food-grain.—Trade operations both in rice and cholam are sufficient for local necessities.

Imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grain—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Two hundred and four putties of rice and 130 putties of cholam. *Polavaram.*—Nil. *Chodavaram.*—Nil. *Yellavaram.*—Forty putties of rice.

STATE OF MARKETS.

PRICES at chief markets of principal food-grains.

	Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.
Bhadráchalam	9–10	14–16	...
Polavaram	10½	17	16
Chodavaram	9–10	18–20	...
Yellavaram	10	13	...

Taluks or places visited by the Collector during the fortnight.—Kunavaram, Waddigudem, Pedamattapalli, Kundalur, Chintur, Lakkavaram, Valamur and Maredumilli.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated 10th April 1897, Dis. No. 1214-Ver.

Forwarded. Here on the market day there were many Koyis and their condition did not indicate want of food nor did they make any complaint, although they are not likely to suffer in silence as I understand that in January they threatened to loot the Komatis, if they attempted to raise prices higher. They have ample employment. Timber cutting and toddy is abundant, if grain is rather dear. The price of cholam is 16 seers against an ordinary price in ordinary years of 20 to 24 seers. From Bhadráchalam accounts are conflicting as to what will happen after June and I am inquiring into the matter. Up to June Mr. Ward and Mr. Hughes are agreed that the Koyis can carry on all right. After that till October, Mr. Ward now seems to think, relief will be necessary. The Special Assistant Agent and the Tahsildar think otherwise. I will report on the point after further enquiry at the end of the current month.

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2. The ippa crop has yielded an 8-anna outturn, and in the opinion of the Special Assistant Collector and Mr. Ward, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, no measures of relief are called for before June in the Agency, but it is doubtful whether distress will be felt after that up to October. The tract wants careful watching, and the Board notes that the Collector intends visiting Bhadráchalam, if he finds reason to consider there is any real anxiety.

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To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
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Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
" Collectors of other affected districts.

ORDER—No. 358, Revenue, dated 19th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

P.W.D

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. }
} 1897. *Enclosures*
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G.O., No. 358, 19th May 1897.

No: 1605 W 9/126-97

Communicated to the
MAY. Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
(Sd) C.H.B.B.
D.N.

S.E. I Circle

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Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

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3. The manner in which the Koyas boycotted the relief works does not look like acute distress at present, and one of the reasons given by Mr. Cain at the time in a private letter to me was that the river side sowcars were in great measure responsible as they did their best to dissuade the Koyas from going near them by offering them better wages themselves for timber cutting and timber hauling and bandy driving, &c. There can be no doubt they did so and that this had some effect, for it is significant that three times more timber including bamboos, is coming down the river this year than usual.

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5. I am now on my way up to Rampa, and if the replies I receive from Messrs. Ward & Cain make me think there is good reason to believe them, will go on to Bhadráchalam, though this must necessarily throw my other work back and cause much inconvenience at this time of year. The state of things too may become critical in May in parts of the Rajahmundry and Peddápuram taluks. They are not so at present. I am thankful to say, but the ice we are standing on is not so thick as I should like it to be. A few more thunder showers at fairly regular intervals would be a great boon, as in that quarter it would secure the summer gingelly that a good many ryots have put down and keep the cattle going as regards pasture.

Resolution—dated 22nd April 1897, Mis. No. 2909.

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2. The Collector will be requested to report more definitely about the condition of Rajahmundry and Peddápuram taluks at an early date. This is the first intimation the Board has received of any anxiety for this part of the district.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Collector of Gódávari.

Read—also the following fortnightly narrative of the Special Assistant Agent, Gódávari, completed from information received up to 25th March 1897 :—

State of Country.

Crops.—No standing crops.

Fodder.—Generally sufficient.

Water-supply.—Considerable difficulty is experienced in getting water for drinking purposes. Some people have to go a long way to fetch it. Others dig pits in the vagus and obtain water therefrom. None for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural operations.—Preparing and burning "Podus."

Cattle.—There is cattle disease in some villages of Polavaram and Bhadráchalam ; also in the Dutcharti mutta of Yellavaram division.

General remarks on above subjects.—The health of the people is on the whole good and their physical condition is satisfactory. There does not appear to be any actual distress from want of food. The small stock of grain is supplemented by tamarinds, roots and leaves and by Ippa flowers in the Bhadráchalam taluk. The Ippa crop is 8 annas. There is also toddy available. The dry remission which has been now sanctioned will give further relief. There was some rain on 23rd and 24th March which has been useful.

Condition of people.

On works.—No works going on just at present.

In villages.—The condition of the people is generally satisfactory. The children appear to be very well cared for and the physical condition of young girls and women is normal. There does not appear to be any distress for want of food.

Mortality.—None from want of food.

Relief Measures.

Relief works—In what taluks open.—None.

Remarks.—Bhadráchalam taluk is the most affected part of the division. The Ippa trees have, however, yielded on the average an 8-anna crop which should pull the people through till the rains. I do not anticipate any necessity for opening relief works.

Grain supply.

Private trade active or not ; whether in rice or dry staple food-grain.—Trade operations both in rice and cholam are sufficient for local necessities.

Imports by rail or sea of rice or other staple food-grain—Bhadráchalam taluk.—Two hundred and four putties of rice and 130 putties of cholam. *Polavaram.*—Nil. *Chodavaram.*—Nil. *Yellavaram.*—Forty putties of rice.

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Prices at chief markets of principal food-grains.

	Rice.	Cholam.	Ragi.
Bhadráchalam	9–10	14–16	...
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Taluks or places visited by the Collector during the fortnight.—Kunavaram, Waddigudem, Pedamattapalli, Kundalur, Chintur, Lakkavaram, Valamur and Maredumilli.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Gódávari, dated 10th April 1897, Dis. No. 1214-Ver.

Forwarded. Here on the market day there were many Koyis and their condition did not indicate want of food nor did they make any complaint, although they are not likely to suffer in silence as I understand that in January they threatened to loot the Komatis, if they attempted to raise prices higher. They have ample employment. Timber cutting and toddy is abundant, if grain is rather dear. The price of cholam is 16 seers against an ordinary price in ordinary years of 20 to 24 seers. From Bhadráchalam accounts are conflicting as to what will happen after June and I am inquiring into the matter. Up to June Mr. Ward and Mr. Hughes are agreed that the Koyis can carry on all right. After that till October, Mr. Ward now seems to think, relief will be necessary. The Special Assistant Agent and the Tahsildar think otherwise. I will report on the point after further enquiry at the end of the current month.

2. New forms of fortnightly narrative were received from the Board on 30th March 1897 and they will be used hereafter.

Resolution—dated 3rd May 1897, No. 331.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The ippa crop has yielded an 8-anna outturn, and in the opinion of the Special Assistant Collector and Mr. Ward, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, no measures of relief are called for before June in the Agency, but it is doubtful whether distress will be felt after that up to October. The tract wants careful watching, and the Board notes that the Collector intends visiting Bhadráchalam, if he finds reason to consider there is any real anxiety.

3. In another communication the Collector expresses some anxiety as to the need of relief later on in the taluks of Peddápuram and Rajahmundry.

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To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Gódávari.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
" Collectors of other affected districts.

Order—No. 358, Revenue, dated 19th May 1897.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
Copy to the Public Works Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 358, 19th May 1897.

MAY.

Fortnightly Narrative.

Recording Board's Proceedings submitting the — of the Special Assistant Agent, Gódávari District, for the period ending 25th March 1897, and a report on the condition of the Koyas in the Bhadráchalam taluk.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd May 1897, No. 331 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S.,L.R. and Agri.), dated 22nd April 1897, Mis. No. 2909 :—

Read—the following letter from J. W. HUGHES, Esq., Special Assistant Collector, Gódávari, to the Collector of Gódávari, dated Camp, Maredumilli, 1st April 1897, Tour Dis. No. 16-S.A.A., and endorsement thereon by the Collector of Gódávari, dated 8th April 1897, Dis. No. 1231-Ver. :—

In continuation of my Lis. No. 349-S.A.A., dated 12th March 1897, I have the honour to report that I am now in a position to give a reliable estimate of the ippa flowers. On the average throughout the Bhadráchalam taluk the crop may be taken as half the usual outturn. This will, in my opinion, be sufficient to pull the people through till the rains, for whereas in ordinary years when the crop is good there is a great waste of the flowers ; in this year the Koyas are carefully looking after the produce of each tree and this economy should balance the deficiency. The state of the crop therefore has relieved me from considerable anxiety, for I have come to the conclusion, as already reported, that when the rains come in addition to the work of bamboo cutting, &c., which will afford employment to the hillmen, the Koyas will be able to obtain an abundant supply of roots from the jungle.

2. This is the opinion which I have formed after very careful enquiry among the Koyas and it is too the opinion of the Tahsildar. But I feel bound to mention that Mr. Ward who, in B.P., dated 19th January 1897, No. 42, is spoken of as fully enjoying the confidence of the Koyas does not agree. He says that during the monsoon no fruits of any description can be obtained and no roots of any description. This practically means, of course, that all those who are not fortunate enough to get work will starve. Under any circumstances, of course, it will be necessary for us to be on the look out constantly for the Koyas at the best of times live from hand-to-mouth. For the present they have tuniki fruit which is getting exhausted—and by the way it was a bumper crop wholly unexpected and most useful ;—they have tamarinds ; they pound the seeds into "Umbali" for food and barter the fruit for cholam ; they have various roots such as naroda and jimea thumpalu and the rain which fell recently on the 23rd and 24th March has been most useful in bringing them out. They have various kinds of leaves such as coddi muralu and finally they have the ippa flowers which they are busily engaged in collecting and drying in the sun. Most part will be used as food, any surplus that may remain will be sold to the abkári contractors for cholam. The recent rain has benefited the crop.

Should there be, later on towards the end of May or in any subsequent month, real indications of any distress, test works may again be started, but I do not now anticipate that there will be any such necessity. I have ordered the Tahsildar and his subordinates to be constantly touring through the interior so that they may keep me thoroughly informed. On being satisfied as to the state of the ippa crop I left Bhadráchalam taluk on the 29th March and am now travelling through Chodavaram division.

Endorsement by V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Collector of Godávari, dated Polavaram, 8th April 1897, Dis. No. 1231-Ver.

Submitted.

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