Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1727 W

DATED 30 June 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Subordinate Establishments. Rpn: Revenue Dept passing orders on papers bringing to notice the extreme difficulty of finding the — and medical subordinates necessary in connection with relief works Communicated to the Heads of Offices at the Residency Town.

F.

[P.W. 20, 5,000—30-11-98.]

30/6/97

Indexed. 9/7

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. 5560

B/No: 1727 W & 30.6.97

Order

Communicates to
Communicated
Heads of Public Works
to Heads of Public Works
offices at the Presidency
offices at the Presidency
Town.
Town.

From The Rev: Deptt.

Ctr. R.S. 7/6/97

No. 410 P.

Dated 31.5.97

Received 5th June 1897

Acknd → 9.6.97

Enclosures

Spare copies

Rev.

To
The E. I
The R. I.
" S. & V. circle
" S. I. Circle
" C. A.
" C. D.
" Exr. P.W. Accounts.
" Examr. P.W. Accts.
" " Ry Accounts
" Ry Accounts.
" Ex. R.
" L. R. &c

30/6/97

SUBJECT.

Re: Supply of Paymasters for the Famine Relief Works in the Deccan Dts.

O.S. 4

Read by E.R. Rev. P.W. 10.9.1897

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Rev: Sett: &c., No: 373 Pers., dated 17th May 1897.

Read also letter from the Surgeon General with the Govt: of Madras, No: Jour 2/37, dated 21st May 1897, stating that he is fully alive to the responsibility imposed on him by section 42 of the Famine Code for providing Medical subordinates for famine duty and explaining the difficulty in obtaining hands owing to the low rate of Salary.

Order thereon; No: 410 Pers., dy 31st May 1897.

In the first of the papers read above the Board of Revenue brings to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the subordinate establishment necessary in connection with relief works and the organization of Village

Village delip. In G.O. 322, d. 12th May 1897, the Government has already ordered enquiries to be made as to whether his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commanding the Madras Force would be able to spare the services of any officers and Miners for the supervision of the work In G.O. 314, of 11th May 1897, lists have been called for of the men that can be spared for famine duty from the Irrigation and Works, the Forest and the Survey Department and from the Collectorate Staff in the non-affected districts; the suggestion that these lists should be submitted to Government through the Famine Commissioner is approved.

2. The Government agree with the Board of Revenue in thinking that the pay of Rs 30/- authorized in the Code to Paymasters is not sufficient to induce the class of men required for the post in sufficient numbers and authorize the Famine Commissioner to allow increased pay to these officers up to a maximum of Rs. 50/- [illegible]

whenever he considers it necessary to do so. There are probably very many Inspectors and Sub-Assistants Inspectors in the Tamil Districts who know the colloquial knowledge of Telugu and might be deputed to the affected districts. The Government offices in the city of Madras might also supply a fair number of men suitable for the post of paymasters; the Famine Commissioner should place himself in communication with the heads of these offices.

3. - In the case of the papers sent above the Surgeon General reports the action taken by him in regard to the Medical Subordinates required in connexion with relief works. The suggestion in the last sentence of his communication is approved and he will be informed that Hospital Assistants may be withdrawn for famine duty from unimportant and newly established dispensaries.

(True Extract)

G. Clarke:

Sec: to Govt:

To [illegible]
Surgeon General
Inspr. Genl: Hospitals
P. W. D.
Mr. [illegible]
Pay: Dept
Civil Auditor General
Accountant General
Accountant General
Civil Auditor General
Comptroller General

for favour of Early Compliance herewith.

Sec: to Govt:

Public Works Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*	on book + 5964
Regd.		*Spare copies*	

G.O., No. 410, 31st May 1897.

No 1727 W 230-6-97

Communicated to Heads of P.W. offices at the Presidency Town.

MAY.

To The E.I.
" S.E. V circle
" C.A.
" Exr. P.W. Accts
" Exr. Ry Accts
" E.R.

H.J. C.H.B.B. D.W.

Subordinate establishments and medical Subordinates necessary in connection with relief-works and the organization of village relief.

Passing orders on papers bringing to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 373:—

Read—the following G.O., No. 314, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897:—

Read—[illegible]y, while in Kurnool one [illegible] Engineer, dated 7th April 1897, regarding the paucity of [illegible] the supervision of [illegible]s of an overseer in setting out ag and inspecting, is to be seen performing measuring up work, in order to avert the alternative of closing some of the works. The supply of overseers and supervisors is already exhausted, although little or no additional assistance has been afforded in Ganjám and Vizagapatam. Should the failure of the south-west monsoon involve the greater part of the Presidency in famine, the Board doubts if it will be possible, even if the various departments are drained of all the men they can spare, to meet the strain, unless help is called in from other quarters.

4. The Board has alluded to the difficulty of finding men fit to discharge the duties of paymasters. A reduction in the number of works, unless caused by the improvement of the season, is not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the number of paymasters required, for, the number of such officers depends upon the numbers on works. One paymaster should be attached, as a rule, to each work, or where the work is a large one to every 3,200 coolies, and in some cases it is necessary to appoint more than the minimum fixed by the Code. In Cuddapah, there are only 14 paymasters for 17 works, and in Kurnool, 29 for 31; while in the former district each officer has to pay 3,429 coolies.

The posts carry with them a pay not exceeding Rs. 30, and it is necessary to find men of energy, honesty and a certain amount of education. Large sums of money are continually passing through their hands, and it is therefore desirable, as far as possible, to have men over whom Government possesses some hold. Taluk gumastahs have usually been employed on this work, resulting in the disorganization of taluk offices. It has also been necessary to entertain unpassed and unknown men for these responsible posts, but the supply even of these is insufficient. Considerable help might be given by drafting men from other departments, though with the many other directions in which assistance is required, the supply is likely to be below requirements in the event of widespread distress.

5. Except in Bellary, and perhaps Ganjám, it has been found impossible to carry out properly the benevolent intentions of Government in the matter of organising gratuitous relief in villages, owing to the want of Circle Inspectors. In Cuddapah and Anantapur no men, and in Kurnool only three have been found for these posts, when ten or twelve are wanted in each district. The difficulty that is encountered in finding men to act as paymasters is met again in the case of kitchen Superintendents.

6. Finally, works are practically without any proper medical superintendence. It is impossible for the present medical staff, be its members never so energetic, to pay anything more than occasional flying visits to the works. The affected districts except Ganjám, have up to now been spared any serious visitations of cholera or small-pox; but such an immunity cannot be counted upon indefinitely. Once the relief camps are attacked with either epidemic, it will run like wild fire from end to end, works will be deserted, the contagion will be spread far and wide, and the death roll will be enormous owing to the inadequacy of the medical establishments to cope with the outbreak. The sequel of the abandonment of works will be the necessity to grant gratuitous relief upon an unlimited scale.

4. The three works referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chief Engineer's note may be kept going for the present as their stoppage is not likely to afford much help. The proposal made in this paragraph to employ a number of College students before their training is completed may be renewed if extreme pressure should arise.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Rev. Sett.).
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
" " " (Land Revenue).
" Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
" Local and Municipal Department.

will be submitted as soo[illegible] of the last quo[illegible]

9. The report as to the necessity for taluk relief officers will be furnished as replies are received from Collectors.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following letter from Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Chief Secretary to Government), dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1897, No. 2-37-Tour:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 308, Revenue, dated 8th May 1897, I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that I am fully alive to the responsibility imposed on me by section 149 of the Famine Code for providing medical subordinates for famine duty and with this responsibility in view, I have, with the permission of Government, repeatedly advertised for private and pensioned medical men for temporary duty, as the small provincial reserve at my disposal could not sufficiently cope with the heavy and urgent demands for plague, famine and cholera duties from various districts and stations. I regret, however, to state that I have been able to secure very few men by such advertisements. The number entertained from March up to date has only been ten and of this three have already resigned owing probably to the hard nature of famine duty and the incompatible rate of remuneration allowed.

2. As regards the requirements of the Kurnool district I have to state that there were originally four reserve Hospital Assistants under the order of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and I have since posted six more, making a total of ten extra men. This number, together with the large permanent staff at the disposal of the district authorities, which should be redistributed as required by section 156 of the Famine Code, ought, in my opinion, to be sufficient to meet all requirements. Should more Hospital Assistants be still required in spite of such redistribution, they may be withdrawn from less important minor dispensaries in the district and such institutions temporarily closed until the new batch of Hospital Assistants passes out from the Madras Medical College at the end of June next when substitutes can be spared.

Order—No. 410, Revenue, dated 31st May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the first of the papers read above the Board of Revenue brings to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the subordinate establishments necessary in connection with relief

works and the organization of village relief. In G.O., No. 322, dated 12th May 1897, the Government has already ordered enquiries to be made as to whether His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding Madras Forces would be able to spare the services of any Sappers and Miners for the supervision of relief works. In G.O., No. 314, dated 11th May 1897, lists have been called for of the men that can be spared for famine duty from the Salt and Abkári, the Forest and the Survey Department and from the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts; the suggestion that these lists should be submitted to Government through the Famine Commissioner is approved.

2. The Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in thinking that the pay of Rs. 30 authorized in the Code to paymasters is not sufficient to attract the class of men required for the post in sufficient numbers and authorizes the Famine Commissioner to allow increased pay to these officers up to a maximum of Rs. 50, whenever he considers it necessary to do so. There are probably very many Revenue Inspectors and taluk gumastahs in the Tamil districts who have a colloquial knowledge of Telugu and might be deputed to the affected districts. The Government offices in the City of Madras might also supply a fair number of men suitable for the post of paymasters; the Famine Commissioner should place himself in communication with the heads of these offices.

3. In the second of the papers read above the Surgeon-General reports the action taken by him in regard to the medical subordinates required in connection with relief works. The suggestion in the last sentence of his communication is approved and he will be informed that Hospital Assistants may be withdrawn for famine work from unimportant and newly established dispensaries.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the „ (Land Revenue).
„ the „ (Separate Revenue).
„ the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
„ the Public Works Department,
„ the Local and Municipal Department,
„ the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces,
„ the Public Department,
„ the Judicial Department,
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

} for favour of early communication to heads of offices in the Presidency Town.

Wxd. Shaik Karim.

150 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 410, 31st May 1897.

N° 1727 W 2/30.6.97

Communicated to Heads of P W offices at the Presidency

MAY.

To
The E.E
" S E V circle
" C.A.
" Ex. P.W. Accts
" Ex Rly Accts
" E R.

Subordinate establishments and medical Subordinates necessary in connection with relief-works and the organization of village relief.

Passing orders on papers bringing to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 373:—

Read—the following G.O., No. 314, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897:—

Read—note by the Chief Engineer, dated 7th April 1897, regarding the paucity of hands for the establishment for the supervision of famine relief-works.

Order—thereon, No. 314, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

In the note read above the Chief Engineer brings to the notice of Government the great difficulty experienced in providing establishment for the supervision of famine relief-works. There were altogether 61 Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates employed on famine duty when the note was written; the number has since increased to 86 and it appears that eight more will shortly be required in the III Circle alone, to say nothing of Ganjám and Vizagapatam where distress is deepening and where relief works, which till recently had failed to attract labourers, are now resorted to by the people in considerable numbers. It seems, therefore, probable that before the next south-west monsoon the number employed on famine duty will considerably exceed the estimate given in paragraph 6 of the note, and if there should be any serious delay or failure in the next monsoon rains and it becomes necessary to open relief-works in other districts, the department would be unable to meet the demand for increased supervision.

2. It is necessary to take timely steps to meet this possible increase in the demand for supervision. It might be possible for the Chief Engineer to temporarily extend and re-arrange the divisions and ranges in the non-affected districts so as to relieve a larger number of officers for famine duty; this course should be adopted wherever practicable. The Salt Department will doubtless be able to supply a number of men capable of supervising works; the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts and the Forest and Survey Departments might also supply a fair number. The heads of these departments are requested to submit to Government as early as possible statements showing the names of the officers they could spare for famine duty and the vernacular languages with which each is acquainted. As additional officers will also be required for the posts of taluk relief officers, circle inspectors, poor-house superintendents, kitchen superintendents, &c., the statements should classify the men as accurately as possible according to the nature of the work they can do.

3. The Government is also of opinion that it would be possible to some extent to replace small scattered relief-works by a few large ones and thus economise supervision by massing relief-workers at selected centres. The Board of Revenue is requested to report the extent to which this can be done and to direct Collectors to have estimates for a sufficient number of works prepared at once in consultation with Superintending Engineers. It should be borne in mind that when works are concentrated it will be necessary to make arrangements for hutting the labourers for establishing bazaars and hospitals, &c. (*vide* section 113). It will also be necessary to open a sufficient number of village works to afford employment near their homes to people living at a distance from the works centres. These details should also receive early attention. Such works might be placed under the Revenue officers, and to that extent they would relieve the strain on the Public Works Department.

4. The three works referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chief Engineer's note may be kept going for the present as their stoppage is not likely to afford much help. The proposal made in this paragraph to employ a number of College students before their training is completed may be renewed if extreme pressure should arise.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Rev. Sett.).
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
" " " (Land Revenue).
" Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
" Local and Municipal Department.

Read—also G.O., No. 315, Press, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

Abstract.—Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Kurnool district for the period ending 28th February 1897, with the remark that the Government is prepared to consider any proposals which the Board may send up in consultation with Collectors for the appointment of Taluk Relief Officers.

Read—also G.O., No. 316, Press, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

Abstract.—Defining the duties and responsibilities of the officers deputed to famine duty, and laying down some principles which should guide the Famine Commissioner and the Collectors in their selection.

Resolution—dated 17th May 1897, No. 373.

The Board begs to submit the report, already referred to in paragraph 5 of B.P., dated 10th May 1897, No. 352, regarding the difficulties placed in the way of the proper administration of famine relief by the paucity of subordinates in the Revenue, Public Works and Medical Departments.

2. The appended statement shows for each affected district the numbers on relief, tasked and gratuitous, the number of works open, and the number of officers on relief duty at the end of April 1897:—

District.	Numbers on relief.		Number of works open.	Number of Revenue Officers				Number of Public Works Department Officers.		Number of Paymasters.	Number of Circle Inspectors.	Number of Medical Subordinates.
				On famine in addition to other duties.		On famine duty alone.						
	Works.	Gratuitous.		Collector and Divisional Officers.	Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.	Collector and Divisional Officers.	Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and temporary Relief Officers.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Overseers and Supervisors.			
Ganjám ..	5,257	13,350	7	5	10	3	4	..	5	1	20	..
Vizagapatam ..	14,262	1,912	7	5	6	..	..	..	9	10	..	..
Kurnool ..	70,063	3,785	31	4	4	1	2	3	15	29	3	..
Bellary ..	76,805	7,449	28	2	7	2	2	5	39	39	11	7
Anantapur ..	22,741	1,506	13	1	8	3	1	..	..	15	..	..
Cuddapah ..	48,008	1,300	17	1	1	2	4	2	8	14	..	..
Total ..	237,136	29,302	103	18	36	11	13	10	76	108	34	7

In only one district, Bellary, and perhaps, in Vizagapatam, can the establishment be said to be at all adequate, and even there the supply of medical officers is below requirements.

3. After the experience of the working of the distance-test in 1877–78, it has been the policy during recent years of distress to provide employment to all applicants as far as possible within a reasonable distance of their homes. The adoption of this policy necessarily involves the opening of a very large number of works, but even within the comparatively limited area within which distress has been declared during the present year, it has been found impossible to fully carry out the principles of the policy owing to the want of officers of the Upper Subordinate grade in the Public Works Department; and it has been found a matter of the gravest difficulty to supply competent and trustworthy men for the responsible posts of paymasters on the works opened. In Anantapur, there are thirteen works open, where there should be at least twenty, while in Kurnool one Divisional Officer, at least, who ought to be constantly touring and inspecting, is to be seen performing the duties of an overseer in setting out and measuring up work, in order to avert the alternative of closing some of the works. The supply of overseers and supervisors is already exhausted, although little or no additional assistance has been afforded in Ganjám and Vizagapatam. Should the failure of the south-west monsoon involve the greater part of the Presidency in famine, the Board doubts if it will be possible, even if the various departments are drained of all the men they can spare, to meet the strain, unless help is called in from other quarters.

4. The Board has alluded to the difficulty of finding men fit to discharge the duties of paymasters. A reduction in the number of works, unless caused by the improvement of the season, is not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the number of paymasters required, for, the number of such officers depends upon the numbers on works. One paymaster should be attached, as a rule, to each work, or where the work is a large one to every 3,200 coolies, and in some cases it is necessary to appoint more than the minimum fixed by the Code. In Cuddapah, there are only 14 paymasters for 17 works, and in Kurnool, 29 for 31; while in the former district each officer has to pay 3,429 coolies.

The posts carry with them a pay not exceeding Rs. 30, and it is necessary to find men of energy, honesty and a certain amount of education. Large sums of money are continually passing through their hands, and it is therefore desirable, as far as possible, to have men over whom Government possesses some hold. Taluk gumastahs have usually been employed on this work, resulting in the disorganization of taluk offices. It has also been necessary to entertain unpassed and unknown men for these responsible posts, but the supply even of these is insufficient. Considerable help might be given by drafting men from other departments, though with the many other directions in which assistance is required, the supply is likely to be below requirements in the event of widespread distress.

5. Except in Bellary, and perhaps Ganjám, it has been found impossible to carry out properly the benevolent intentions of Government in the matter of organising gratuitous relief in villages, owing to the want of Circle Inspectors. In Cuddapah and Anantapur no men, and in Kurnool only three have been found for these posts, when ten or twelve are wanted in each district. The difficulty that is encountered in finding men to act as paymasters is met again in the case of kitchen Superintendents.

6. Finally, works are practically without any proper medical superintendence. It is impossible for the present medical staff, be its members never so energetic, to pay anything more than occasional flying visits to the works. The affected districts except Ganjám, have up to now been spared any serious visitations of cholera or small-pox; but such an immunity cannot be counted upon indefinitely. Once the relief camps are attacked with either epidemic, it will run like wild fire from end to end, works will be deserted, the contagion will be spread far and wide, and the death roll will be enormous owing to the inadequacy of the medical establishments to cope with the outbreak. The sequel of the abandonment of works will be the necessity to grant gratuitous relief upon an unlimited scale.

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 314 of 1897, the Famine Commissioner ventures to suggest that the lists of officers in each department available for famine duty may be forwarded to Government through him, in order that he may express his opinion as to the adequacy of the staff that may be available. Possibly the Staff Corps and the Sappers might be indented on. In the great famine of 1877–78, after the month of August 1877, floods of officers of all departments were poured over the Presidency from Bengal and elsewhere, many of whom did excellent work; but the strain in Bengal and other Provinces is already great, and it is doubtful if they could lend men, should the south-west monsoon prove unfavourable. In the latter contingency Mysore and the Nizam's Dominions would be likely, more or less, to fall into line with the bulk of this Presidency, so that the area which could be indented on for help would be further reduced.

8. Further report on the question raised in paragraph 3 of the last quoted G.O., will be submitted as soon as possible.

9. The report as to the necessity for taluk relief officers will be furnished as soon as replies are received from Collectors.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following letter from Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Chief Secretary to Government), dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1897, No. 2-37-Tour:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 308, Revenue, dated 8th May 1897, I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that I am fully alive to the responsibility imposed on me by section 149 of the Famine Code for providing medical subordinates for famine duty and with this responsibility in view, I have, with the permission of Government, repeatedly advertised for private and pensioned medical men for temporary duty, as the small provincial reserve at my disposal could not sufficiently cope with the heavy and urgent demands for plague, famine and cholera duties from various districts and stations. I regret, however, to state that I have been able to secure very few men by such advertisements. The number entertained from March up to date has only been ten and of this three have already resigned owing probably to the hard nature of famine duty and the incompatible rate of remuneration allowed.

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Order—No. 410, Revenue, dated 31st May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

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works and the organization of village relief. In G.O., No. 322, dated 12th May 1897, the Government has already ordered enquiries to be made as to whether His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding Madras Forces would be able to spare the services of any Sappers and Miners for the supervision of relief works. In G.O., No. 314, dated 11th May 1897, lists have been called for of the men that can be spared for famine duty from the Salt and Abkári, the Forest and the Survey Department and from the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts; the suggestion that these lists should be submitted to Government through the Famine Commissioner is approved.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the „ (Land Revenue).
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„ the Famine Commissioner.
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„ the Judicial Department,
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

} for favour of early communication to heads of offices in the Presidency Town.

Exd. Shaik Kavim.

150 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 410, 31st May 1897.

MAY.

Subordinate establishments and medical Subordinates necessary in connection with relief-works and the organization of village relief.

Passing orders on papers bringing to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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2. It is necessary to take timely steps to meet this possible increase in the demand for supervision. It might be possible for the Chief Engineer to temporarily extend and re-arrange the divisions and ranges in the non-affected districts so as to relieve a larger number of officers for famine duty; this course should be adopted wherever practicable. The Salt Department will doubtless be able to supply a number of men capable of supervising works; the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts and the Forest and Survey Departments might also supply a fair number. The heads of these departments are requested to submit to Government as early as possible statements showing the names of the officers they could spare for famine duty and the vernacular languages with which each is acquainted. As additional officers will also be required for the posts of taluk relief officers, circle inspectors, poor-house superintendents, kitchen superintendents, &c., the statements should classify the men as accurately as possible according to the nature of the work they can do.

3. The Government is also of opinion that it would be possible to some extent to replace small scattered relief-works by a few large ones and thus economise supervision by massing relief-workers at selected centres. The Board of Revenue is requested to report the extent to which this can be done and to direct Collectors to have estimates for a sufficient number of works prepared at once in consultation with Superintending Engineers. It should be borne in mind that when works are concentrated it will be necessary to make arrangements for hutting the labourers for establishing bazaars and hospitals, &c. (*vide* section 113). It will also be necessary to open a sufficient number of village works to afford employment near their homes to people living at a distance from the works centres. These details should also receive early attention. Such works might be placed under the Revenue officers, and to that extent they would relieve the strain on the Public Works Department.

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(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Rev. Sett.).
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
" " " (Land Revenue).
" Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
" Local and Municipal Department.

Read—also G.O., No. 315, Press, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

Abstract.—Recording the fortnightly narrative of the Kurnool district for the period ending 28th February 1897, with the remark that the Government is prepared to consider any proposals which the Board may send up in consultation with Collectors for the appointment of Taluk Relief Officers.

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Abstract.—Defining the duties and responsibilities of the officers deputed to famine duty, and laying down some principles which should guide the Famine Commissioner and the Collectors in their selection.

Resolution—dated 17th May 1897, No. 373.

The Board begs to submit the report, already referred to in paragraph 5 of B.P., dated 10th May 1897, No. 352, regarding the difficulties placed in the way of the proper administration of famine relief by the paucity of subordinates in the Revenue, Public Works and Medical Departments.

2. The appended statement shows for each affected district the numbers on relief, tasked and gratuitous, the number of works open, and the number of officers on relief duty at the end of April 1897:—

District.	Numbers on relief.		Number of works open.	Number of Revenue Officers				Number of Public Works Department Officers.		Number of Paymasters.	Number of Circle Inspectors.	Number of Medical Subordinates.
				On famine in addition to other duties.		On famine duty alone.						
	Works.	Gratuitous.		Collector and Divisional Officers.	Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.	Collector and Divisional Officers.	Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and temporary Relief Officers.	Executive and Assistant Engineers.	Overseers and Supervisors.			
Ganjám ..	5,257	13,350	7	5	10	3	4	..	5	1	20	..
Vizagapatam ..	14,262	1,912	7	5	6	..	..	..	9	10	..	..
Kurnool ..	70,063	3,785	31	4	4	1	2	3	15	29	3	..
Bellary ..	76,805	7,449	28	2	7	2	2	5	39	39	11	7
Anantapur ..	22,741	1,506	13	1	8	3	1	..	..	15	..	..
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Total ..	237,136	29,302	103	18	36	11	13	10	76	108	34	7

In only one district, Bellary, and perhaps, in Vizagapatam, can the esta ment be said to be at all adequate, and even there the supply of medical offic below requirements.

3. After the experience of the working of the distance-test in 1877–78, it ha been the policy during recent years of distress to provide employment to all applicants as far as possible within a reasonable distance of their homes. The adoption of this policy necessarily involves the opening of a very large number of works, but even within the comparatively limited area within which distress has been declared during the present year, it has been found impossible to fully carry out the principles of the policy owing to the want of officers of the Upper Subordinate grade in the Public Works Department; and it has been found a matter of the gravest difficulty to supply competent and trustworthy men for the responsible posts of paymasters on the works opened. In Anantapur, there are thirteen works open, where there should be at least twenty, while in Kurnool one Divisional Officer, at least, who ought to be constantly touring and inspecting, is to be seen performing the duties of an overseer in setting out and measuring up work, in order to avert the alternative of closing some of the works. The supply of overseers and supervisors is already exhausted, although little or no additional assistance has been afforded in Ganjám and Vizagapatam. Should the failure of the south-west monsoon involve the greater part of the Presidency in famine, the Board doubts if it will be possible, even if the various departments are drained of all the men they can spare, to meet the strain, unless help is called in from other quarters.

4. The Board has alluded to the difficulty of finding men fit to discharge the duties of paymasters. A reduction in the number of works, unless caused by the improvement of the season, is not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the number of paymasters required, for, the number of such officers depends upon the numbers on works. One paymaster should be attached, as a rule, to each work, or where the work is a large one to every 3,200 coolies, and in some cases it is necessary to appoint more than the minimum fixed by the Code. In Cuddapah, there are only 14 paymasters for 17 works, and in Kurnool, 29 for 31; while in the former district each officer has to pay 3,429 coolies.

The posts carry with them a pay not exceeding Rs. 30, and it is necessary to find men of energy, honesty and a certain amount of education. Large sums of money are continually passing through their hands, and it is therefore desirable, as far as possible, to have men over whom Government possesses some hold. Taluk gumastahs have usually been employed on this work, resulting in the disorganization of taluk offices. It has also been necessary to entertain unpassed and unknown men for these responsible posts, but the supply even of these is insufficient. Considerable help might be given by drafting men from other departments, though with the many other directions in which assistance is required, the supply is likely to be below requirements in the event of widespread distress.

5. Except in Bellary, and perhaps Ganjám, it has been found impossible to carry out properly the benevolent intentions of Government in the matter of organising gratuitous relief in villages, owing to the want of Circle Inspectors. In Cuddapah and Anantapur no men, and in Kurnool only three have been found for these posts, when ten or twelve are wanted in each district. The difficulty that is encountered in finding men to act as paymasters is met again in the case of kitchen Superintendents.

6. Finally, works are practically without any proper medical superintendence. It is impossible for the present medical staff, be its members never so energetic, to pay anything more than occasional flying visits to the works. The affected districts except Ganjám, have up to now been spared any serious visitations of cholera or small-pox; but such an immunity cannot be counted upon indefinitely. Once the relief camps are attacked with either epidemic, it will run like wild fire from end to end, works will be deserted, the contagion will be spread far and wide, and the death roll will be enormous owing to the inadequacy of the medical establishments to cope with the outbreak. The sequel of the abandonment of works will be the necessity to grant gratuitous relief upon an unlimited scale.

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 314 of 1897, the Famine Commissioner ventures to suggest that the lists of officers in each department available for famine duty may be forwarded to Government through him, in order that he may express his opinion as to the adequacy of the staff that may be available. Possibly the Staff Corps and the Sappers might be indented on. In the great famine of 1877–78, after the month of August 1877, floods of officers of all departments were poured over the Presidency from Bengal and elsewhere, many of whom did excellent work; but the strain in Bengal and other Provinces is already great, and it is doubtful if they could lend men, should the south-west monsoon prove unfavourable. In the latter contingency Mysore and the Nizam's Dominions would be likely, more or less, to fall into line with the bulk of this Presidency, so that the area which could be indented on for help would be further reduced.

8. Further report on the question raised in paragraph 3 of the last quoted G.O., will be submitted as soon as possible.

9. The report as to the necessity for taluk relief officers will be furnished as soon as replies are received from Collectors.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

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

Read—also the following letter from Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Chief Secretary to Government), dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1897, No. 2-37-Tour:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 308, Revenue, dated 8th May 1897, I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that I am fully alive to the responsibility imposed on me by section 149 of the Famine Code for providing medical subordinates for famine duty and with this responsibility in view, I have, with the permission of Government, repeatedly advertised for private and pensioned medical men for temporary duty, as the small provincial reserve at my disposal could not sufficiently cope with the heavy and urgent demands for plague, famine and cholera duties from various districts and stations. I regert, however, to state that I have been able to secure very few men by such advertisements. The number entertained from March up to date has only been ten and of this three have already resigned owing probably to the hard nature of famine duty and the incompatible rate of remuneration allowed.

2. As regards the requirements of the Kurnool district I have to state that there were originally four reserve Hospital Assistants under the order of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and I have since posted six more, making a total of ten extra men. This number, together with the large permanent staff at the disposal of the district authorities, which should be redistributed as required by section 156 of the Famine Code, ought, in my opinion, to be sufficient to meet all requirements. Should more Hospital Assistants be still required in spite of such redistribution, they may be withdrawn from less important minor dispensaries in the district and such institutions temporarily closed until the new batch of Hospital Assistants passes out from the Madras Medical College at the end of June next when substitutes can be spared.

Order—No. 410, Revenue, dated 31st May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the first of the papers read above the Board of Revenue brings to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the subordinate establishments necessary in connection with relief

works and the organization of village relief. In G.O., No. 322, dated 12th May 1897, the Government has already ordered enquiries to be made as to whether His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding Madras Forces would be able to spare the services of any Sappers and Miners for the supervision of relief works. In G.O., No. 314, dated 11th May 1897, lists have been called for of the men that can be spared for famine duty from the Salt and Abkári, the Forest and the Survey Department and from the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts; the suggestion that these lists should be submitted to Government through the Famine Commissioner is approved.

2. The Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in thinking that the pay of Rs. 30 authorized in the Code to paymasters is not sufficient to attract the class of men required for the post in sufficient numbers and authorizes the Famine Commissioner to allow increased pay to these officers up to a maximum of Rs. 50, whenever he considers it necessary to do so. There are probably very many Revenue Inspectors and taluk gumastahs in the Tamil districts who have a colloquial knowledge of Telugu and might be deputed to the affected districts. The Government offices in the City of Madras might also supply a fair number of men suitable for the post of paymasters; the Famine Commissioner should place himself in communication with the heads of these offices.

3. In the second of the papers read above the Surgeon-General reports the action taken by him in regard to the medical subordinates required in connection with relief works. The suggestion in the last sentence of his communication is approved and he will be informed that Hospital Assistants may be withdrawn for famine work from unimportant and newly established dispensaries.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the „ (Land Revenue).
„ the „ (Separate Revenue).
„ the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
„ the Public Works Department,
„ the Local and Municipal Department,
„ the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces,
„ the Public Department,
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„ the Financial Department.

} for favour of early communication to heads of offices in the Presidency Town.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

150 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 410, 31st May 1897.

MAY.

Subordinate establishments and medical Subordinates necessary in connection with relief-works and the organization of village relief.

Passing orders on papers bringing to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty of finding the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, (Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th May 1897, No. 373:—

Read—the following G.O., No. 314, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897:—

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Famine Secretary.

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" Collectors of affected districts.
Copy to all other Collectors.

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} for favour of early communication to heads of offices in the Presidency Town.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

160 Copies.

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1730 W

Dated 30 June 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Delay; Letter from S.E. Tank explaining the — in the supply of famine tools to the Revenue Dept in Vizagapatam Dt; Court to the Revenue Dept with reference to E.'s No. 290 Rev. dy 3. May 1897

[P.W. 25. 5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed.