

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1861 W

DATED 10. July 1897

Rishma B.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lamine Tools, Prod: Revenue Dept recording
with remarks report from the Chief Engineer and
Secretary Govt P.W.D., and the third member of
the Board of Revenue on their inspection of
the in the Kistna & Co. to S. E. T. C. in
remarks

P.W. 25.
[5,000-80-11-06.]

Indexed.

nothing is said in the draft
order for the inadequacy
of the supply, as proposals are
now before for increasing
the sanctioned scale generally
and the present sanctioned scale
does not show the allotment to
districts but to circles. What the present
share of the Krishna district ^{is} therefore
has not been fixed

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

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS

G. Parker

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Revenue Department.

GOVERNMENT OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
REVENUE.

Read Report from the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, P.W. Dept., and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue, No. F., dated 15th June 1897, on their inspection of famine tools &c., in the Kistna District.

ORDER thereon, No. 528 dated 3rd July 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Collector should arrange to have the ^{worst} ~~most~~ parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and submit a special report thereon and on the success or otherwise of ~~any~~ test works that might be deemed necessary. Estimates for works in the Vissanpet and ^{Vina} ~~Wazvid~~ divisions to the amounts recommended in para 9 should be got ready at once.

3. The remarks in para 11 as to the condition of the famine tools requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

Ag. Secy. to Govt.

To the Famine Commr.

" P.W. Dept.

" To Collr. of Kistna. Famine Tools, &c.

Recording report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the third member of the Board of Revenue on the Kistna district, directing the Collector to arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and stating that the condition of the famine tools of the district requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

Revenue Department.

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G. S. S.

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To the Famine Commr.

" P.W. Dept.

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Receiving report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the third member of the Board of Revenue on -- in the Kistna district, directing the Collector to arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and stating that the condition of the famine tools in the district requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 528, 3rd July 1897.

JULY.

Famine-relief Estimates, Famine Tools, &c.

Recording report from the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and the third member of the Board of Revenue on — in the Kistna district; directing the Collector to arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers; and stating that the condition of the famine tools in the district requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Report from the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, P.W. Dept., and the Third Member of the Board of Revenue, No. 1., dated 15th June 1897, on their inspection of famine tools &c., in the Kistna District.

ORDER thereon, No. 528 dated 3rd July 1897.

2. The Collector should arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and submit a special report thereon and on the success or otherwise of any test works that might be deemed necessary. Estimates for works in the Vissapet and Masina divisions to the amounts recommended in para 2 should be got ready at once.

3. The remarks in para 1 as to the condition of the famine tools requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

Ag. Secy. to Govt.

To the Famine Commr.
" P.W. Dept.
" Collr. of Kistna.

No. 528 REVENUE, 3RD JULY 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, and H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Third Member, Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp, Bezwada, 15th June 1897, letter F:—

In continuation of our letter E, dated 14th June 1897, we have the honour to submit the following report on the Kistna district.

1. *General condition of the district.*—We met the Acting Collector, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer at Bezwada, and discussed the situation with them on June 13th, 14th and 15th. Mr. Batten, the Acting Collector, is new to the district, having joined it for the first time at the end of April last. The Sub-Collector is absent on famine duty, and a junior Deputy Collector has been in charge of the sub-division since February last. Mr. A. R. Cumming, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, is the only European Revenue officer in the district, besides the Collector, and his acquaintance with his division dates from August 1896.

The Deputy Collector in charge of the Narasaraopet, Vinukonda and Palnád taluks has held his present post for about eight months. At the close of April he inspected a number of Palnád villages bordering on the Kurnool district, and in the beginning of June he inspected a number of villages in Vinukonda, also bordering on Kurnool. Last year's floods have made the jamabandi of the current fasli unusually troublesome, and for this and other reasons the other Divisional officers have done little or no recent touring in those parts of the upland tracts where the pinch of the existing high prices is likely to be most felt.

It seems to us very important that the worst parts of these tracts should be inspected by the Divisional officers at once. The Collector is arranging for this to be done, and each officer will be instructed to open a small test-work in any place where, in his judgment, there are indications of real distress. We hope no such place will be found, but (as is shown below) the last north-east monsoon was seriously deficient, and prices have been, for some time past, approaching scarcity rates.

2. *Rainfall.*—The district average rainfall in 1896 was 25.81 inches against a 20 years' average of 33.46 inches. The rains of the south-west monsoon were very favourable, giving an average of over 21 inches. In October, however, the district average was only .33 of an inch, in November 3.75 inches, and in December there was no rain at all. We have at hand no definite information on the point, but there can be no doubt that so deficient a north-east monsoon must have resulted in a short harvest of the late "dry" crops in the upland taluks.

The following statement shows the rainfall from April 1st to June 12th in the present year:—

No. 528, REVENUE, 3RD JULY 1897.

Stations.	Rainfall from April 1st to May 31st.	Average.	Difference.	Rainfall in June up to the 12th.	Remarks.
					In extreme north.
Tiruvur	3.73	1.50	+ 2.23	0.21	
Nandigama	2.31	1.79	+ 0.52	2.09	
Bezwada	0.35	1.86	+ 1.51	2.32	
Gunnaravaram	3.81	1.22	+ 2.59	0.83	
Gudivada	2.48	1.92	+ 0.56	0.06	
Masulipatam	0.97	1.39	+ 0.42	2.45	
Guntur	1.45	2.03	+ 0.58	3.88	
Sattenápalli	0.57	1.74	+ 1.17	0.24	
Gurazala (Palnád)	1.80	1.68	+ 0.12	2.01	
Vinukonda	2.20	1.84	+ 0.36	0.48	
Narasaraopet	3.19	2.09	+ 1.10	3.38	
Bápatla	2.01	1.76	+ 0.25	2.31	
Tenali	0.39	1.86	+ 1.47		
Average	1.58	1.80	— 0.22	1.56	

Heavy showers are reported since the 12th instant at and near Tiruvur in the extreme north of the Vissannapet zemin, where there had hitherto been no rain in June. There have also been heavy storms in various parts of the Palnád taluk. On the whole, the early rains have so far been favourable, and ploughing and sowing are in active progress throughout.

3. *Prices.*—The following statement shows the prices of the chief food-grains for the week ending June 12th, as compared with the normal, warning and scarcity rates:—

Stations.	Prices in Imperial seers of 80 tolas.								
	Rice.			Cholam.			Cumbu.		
	Week ending 12th June 1897.	Normal.	Warning rate.	Scarcity rate.	Week ending 12th June 1897.	Normal.	Warning rate.	Scarcity rate.	Week ending 12th June 1897.
Tiruvur	8.0				14.0				26.0
Gunnaravaram delta	9.3				13.5				19.5
Gudivada do.	9.0				14.1				13.0
Bandar do.	8.3				14.2				12.3
Tenali do.	10.7				14.0				12.6
Bápatla do.	10.0	15.4	12.3	9.2	13.2	26.0	19.5	13.0	12.5
Guntur	9.9				12.8				12.3
Bezwada delta	9.4				15.4				12.6
Nandigama	9.5				13.4				12.6
Sattenápalli	10.5				14.3				12.5
Narasaraopet	10.7				15.7				12.5
Vinukonda	9.9				13.9				12.5
Gurazala (Palnád)	9.0				14.0				12.5
District average	9.5								

Cholam is the officially recognised staple food in the upland taluks, but the figures given at page 86 of the statistical Atlas show that in Palnád and Narasaraopet, varagu is much more extensively cultivated than cholam. The total upland areas under varagu, cumbu and "others" are very large. The price of cholam rose rapidly in October and November 1896, to a higher level in several stations than it is at present. There was then a gradual fall in price till March, since when the price has again been rising, notably since the middle of May.

Bezwada is the only place where it is dearer than the scarcity rate (13 seers); but in the upland stations of Tiruvur, Guntur, Sattenápalli and Palnád, the price is 14 seers or dearer.

At Bezwada the high price must in some way be connected with the fact that this town is the great centre of export by three lines of rail. Rice in Bezwada also has almost reached the scarcity rate.

We can vouch for the fact that no signs of distress are visible in this neighbourhood; ploughing is going on with vigour, and the condition of both man and beast appears good. Pasture is rapidly improving after recent showers. The absence of any visible distress in Bezwada seems to indicate how unsafe it would be to infer the existence of acute distress, merely from the high price of rice and cholam.

4. *Exports and Imports.*—Since the beginning of February 1897, 2·22 lakhs of maunds of grain have been exported by sea and 3·29 lakhs of maunds by rail. Of the rail-borne exports, 2·41 lakhs of maunds have been carried by the Southern Mahratta Railway. The imports by sea have been practically nil. By rail 27,000 maunds have been imported, 19,000 maunds of which was carried by the Southern Mahratta line. Whether these imports were from the railway stations in Nellore or from the Kurnool side, we have no information.

No particulars are available for the exports by canal and by road. The canals have, however, been closed since March until a few days ago.

5. Were it not for the extended markets which the railways have opened up, and the consequent large exports of grain, there seems no reason to doubt that prices in Kistna would be little, if at all, above the normal.

The river is in flood—2 feet over the anicut—and there is thus an ample water-supply for the whole delta, and a great demand for labour for transplanting and other farming operations.

We understand that labourers from the upland taluks in large numbers regularly seek this field for employment.

6. The latest season reports from all the upland taluks agree that the time has not yet come when the labouring classes would accept work on a famine wage; that the recent showers are being followed by extensive ploughing and sowing; and that, if prospects continue as they now are, the present evil times can be tided over without succour from Government.

7. *Famine programme.*—The Board's review of the relief works programme, with the usual abstract, Form C, was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, No. 395, dated 22nd May 1897. The programme includes works, the assumed total cost of which is Rs. 20,59,262, which would give employment to 24·2 per cent. of the population for 3 months, but unfortunately most of those works are merely proposed; the preparation of the estimates for the greater portion has not been begun; and in the case of many of the estimates ready is Rs. 3,93,958: but very few of them have been sanctioned, and on examination of those laid before us we find that, under irrigation works to be carried out by the Department of Public Works, the sum available for famine relief on sanctioned estimates, some of which are in progress, is only about Rs. 28,600. Under Local Fund roads the total amount of sanctioned estimates is Rs. 1,82,397, but this includes Rs. 1,42,800 for roads extending to the Hyderabad frontier, and which would be useless unless continued through that territory, and it is not known if the Nizam's Government would be willing so to continue them. Under Minor Local Fund works—Irrigation works, Revenue Department, Forest—Fencing and Miscellaneous, there are no sanctioned works, though estimates (which we were unable to see) for Rs. 82,611 are stated to be ready. It will thus be seen that the total amount of estimates sanctioned and available for immediate execution is only Rs. 68,197. The famine programme was prepared some months ago, and the present Acting Collector being of opinion that the works proposed were mostly unsuitable, had a large number of road repair estimates prepared. These were laid before us and amount to Rs. 7,77,520. They will be brought before the District Board at its next meeting on 19th instant and will, we doubt not, be sanctioned. There are besides, estimates stated to be ready for the sanction of the Board on the 19th. Assuming (as may be safely done) that these estimates are passed, there will, in a few days from this date, be estimates for Rs. 9,80,905 for road repairs, plus Rs. 68,197 for other works, or altogether Rs. 10,49,102 ready for immediate execution. This will give employment to 139,880 persons or 12·3 per cent. of the population, and while this sum is being worked out, some of the other works entered in the programme could be estimated for and would be ready in case of a failure of the north-east monsoon.

8. We are of opinion that works to the estimated amount of Rs. 10,49,102 are ample to give employment to all who may require relief before next November; this sum, as stated above, provides for 139,880 persons; while in the famine of 1876-77, the greatest number relieved in any one month was 25,095.

9. The parts of the district likely first to require relief are the Vissannapet and parts of the Nuzvid zemindaris and parts of the Palnad and Sattenapalle taluks. The estimates sanctioned, or that will be sanctioned, on 19th and available for execution in each of these tracts and the percentage of the population they will employ is as follows:—

Taluk and divisions.	Population.	Amount of estimates.	Percentage of population that can be employed.
		Rs.	
Vissannapet	61,102	28,270	2·5
Nuzvid	150,345	82,644	7·7
Palnad	141,985	89,100	8·5
Sattenapalle	138,617		

In Vissannapet there are stated to be no roads to repair and no irrigation works; the programme, however, includes Rs. 1,00,509 for proposed works, viz., two new roads and some miscellaneous works, such as constructing pounds, clearing jungle, &c. Estimates to the amount of about Rs. 50,000 for the most useful of these works should be prepared and sanctioned at once and the Collector promises to lose no time in getting this done. That sum would give employment to about 10 per cent. of the population. In Nuzvid there are works proposed amounting to Rs. 58,587. The estimates should be prepared and sanctioned as soon as possible. There will then be employment for 7·7 per cent. of the population; this and also the provision made for the Palnad and Sattenapalli taluks will be ample to meet all contingencies that may arise, even should there be a failure of the south-west monsoon.

10. The programme contains no large works on which coolies could be massed, and we can suggest none except in the delta. We think that in the event of a famine in the upland taluks every endeavour should be made to induce the distressed people to migrate and take work on the river embankments. The estimate for the right embankment is 2½ lakhs and for the left 2 lakhs. Both are said to be ready and could be sanctioned in a short time. The work would employ a large number of coolies for a considerable period. It would be most useful and eminently suited for relief purposes.

11. *Tools.*—The famine tools in store were personally counted by the Executive Engineer on the 26th of last month and were examined by us on the 14th instant; the numbers agree with those in the statement prepared in reference to G.O., No. 3116-W., dated 2nd December 1893, and are as shown in the margin. All the hammers are serviceable, but about 20 per cent. of the other tools are unfit for ordinary work, but would do for women and children employed on famine work. The stock of tools is altogether inadequate.

12. The population of the district deducting the delta taluks is 1,110,000, or about one-half that of the North Arcot district and we consider that the stock of tools to be maintained should be as per margin. Our recommendations regarding the number of tools which should be at once provided and held in reserve in each district we have visited are based on a consideration of the wide area already smitten with famine, and the extent to which the stocks of tools in the non-affected districts have been already drawn upon.

Steel stone breaking hammers	76
Pick-axes	164
Iron crowbars	1,723
Mamooties	1,306
Stone hammers	22,000
Mamooties	4,500
Pick-axes	2,500
Hammers	500
Crowbars	4,500
Sledge hammers	250
Hand axes	250
Bill hooks	250
Instruments for clearing prickly-pear.	250
Total	35,000

We do not, however, know what are the exact resources of the entire Presidency in respect of famine tools not yet brought into use.

Large numbers of tools, especially hammers, have been recently transferred from many districts for use on relief-works in the first and third circles. We have called for a return of the stock of tools remaining in each non-affected district at the present date, and on the receipt thereof we shall be in a position to show how far the great deficiency in the districts we have visited can be safely made up by transfers from elsewhere.

We propose to visit the Public Works Department Workshops on our return to Madras, and will ascertain what is the maximum number of tools which can be drawn daily from this source. We hope too to have information regarding the resources of local firms in a day or two.

At present all we are in a position to say is that the number of tools which we have specified as required for each district is the minimum number with which we think a prudent Collector, responsible for the famine administration of his district, should be satisfied with as a provision against possible failure of rain in the current year.

13. *Establishment*.—Out of a sanctioned strength of 37 Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates there are now only 22 remaining, so that, in the event of a famine many more would be required, the number depending on the extent of the distress.

ORDER—No. 528, Revenue, dated 3rd July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. The Collector should arrange to have the worst parts of the upland taluks visited at once by the Divisional officers and submit a special report thereon and on the success or otherwise of any test works that might be deemed necessary. Estimates for works in the Vissannapet and Nuzvid divisions to the amounts recommended in paragraph 9 should be got ready at once.

3. The remarks in paragraph 11 as to the condition of the famine tools requires the immediate attention of the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Collector of Kistna.