# Government {1897} of Madras.

## REVENUE.

*Recd.* } 1897. *Enclosures*

*Regd.* } *Spare copies*

**G.O., No. 603, 21st July 1897.**

N° 2303W of 23.8.97.
Commd to officers
concerned.
for DMENC.

JULY.

for D.
Sec. Govt

**Famine Batta.**

Directing that Government servants on civil establishments in the districts of Bellary, Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah be granted — under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from certain dates.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455 :—

*Read*—the following G.O., No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Finance and Commerce), dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1897, No. 136, Revenue :—

I am directed to forward copy of the marginally-noted Proceedings of this Government in which His Excellency the Governor in Council has sanctioned the grant of famine batta to Government servants in Ganjám in accordance with the provisions of article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Part I., Volume I., and to invite your attention to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Board's Proceedings printed therein, pointing out that the adoption of a fixed price for all grains and all districts alike as indicative of general scarcity and distress, gives rise to anomalous results, and suggesting a modification of the present rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions.

No. 135, dated 4th March 1897.

2. The Government of India has directed that the grain to be adopted for regulating the grant of compensation should be the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people, that is, the common staple food of the people of the district (*vide* paragraph 9 of the Government of India Resolution, No. 1648, dated 28th March 1888, Finance and Commerce), and it has been explained in Mr. Sinkinson's letter No. 3040, dated 18th June 1889, that the basis of this rule is that "if in any district the common food of the people has risen in price beyond a certain point the fact indicates a general scarcity and pressure in the district causing such distress to Government servants there employed as to warrant an increase to their pay sufficient to mitigate the hardship caused by high prices." The staple-grains adopted by this Government for the different districts in accordance with the above resolution of 1888, are given in the annexed statement from which it will be seen that the normal prices of these grains as determined from the averages of ordinary years vary widely, from 13·4 seers per rupee in Malabar to 32 seers in North Arcot. It will be obvious from an examination of these normal prices (column 3 of the statement) that the fact that the price of the staple adopted has risen to 12 seers per rupee in any district does not necessarily show that there is scarcity or pressure in the district, and that where it *does* indicate distress, the limiting price is reached at different stages of distress in different districts. Thus in Malabar and South Canara a small rise in prices over the normal entitles Government employés therein to famine batta, and in the districts of Ganjám, Nilgiris and Tinnevelly, the grant of such batta is permissible long before scarcity rates are reached. On the other hand in North Arcot, Salem and the Deccan districts no compensation will be payable till prices exceed scarcity rates considerably and till probably very severe distress has set in. The Government has till now avoided in equalities in the working of the rules by the exercise of the discretion vested in it by article 72 of the Civil Account Code, but this discretion only enables it to withhold



compensation where it is permissible under the rules, and not to grant it in cases where there is undoubted distress though the staple-grain has not risen in price above 12 seers per rupee.

3. Second-sort rice is the staple-grain adopted for Ganjám, and as the price of this grain has been for months past higher than 12 seers per rupee, and has now risen beyond the scarcity rate of 10·2 seers, orders have been issued directing the grant of famine batta to Government employés in the district. As yet, however, only test-works have been opened in the district on which about 1,629 persons are employed, and the distress, though undoubted, is not so severe as in the Deccan districts where regular relief-works have been opened in various parts and where over 50,000 persons are in receipt of State relief. Government servants in these districts in receipt of small salaries are certainly in greater need of help from Government than those in Ganjám, but as the staple-grain of these districts, viz., cholam, is still cheaper than 12 seers per rupee they are not entitled to any concession under the rules. This is an undoubted inequality in the working of the rules which the Local Government cannot rectify.

| Months. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| November ... ... ... ... | 10·4 |
| December ... ... ... ... | 10·3 |
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Week ending 20th February 1897.

| Districts. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... | 14·2 |
| Bellary ... ... ... ... | 13·1 |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... | 13·7 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... | 14·5 |

4. The object of the Government of India in framing the rules being to mitigate the hardship caused to its employés by high prices in times of general scarcity and pressure, it appears to His Excelleney the Governor in Council for the reasons set forth above, that definite percentage increases over normal prices are a fairer and surer gauge of such scarcity and pressure than a fixed price for all grains and places alike. The warning and scarcity rates adopted for the various districts are based on the principle of percentage increases, and I am to suggest that the same principle may also be adopted in article 72 of the Civil Account Code.

APPENDIX.

| Districts. | Grain. | Normal price. | Scarcity rates. | Percentage rise above normal prices when compensation will be allowable. | Percentage rise above scarcity rates before compensation may be allowed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ganjám .. .. .. .. .. .. | Rice, 2nd sort. | 17·0 | 10·2 | 41·7 | .. |
| South Canara .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 14·0 | 8·4 | 16·7 | .. |
| Malabar .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 13·4 | 8·0 | 11·7 | .. |
| Vizagapatam .. .. .. .. .. .. | Ragi. | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Gódávari .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Madras .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Chingleput .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| North Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 32·0 | 16·0 | 166·7 | 33·3 |
| Tanjore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Nilgiris .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 21·0 | 10·5 | 75·0 | .. |
| Salem .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 31·0 | 15·5 | 158·3 | 29·2 |
| Kistna .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cholam. | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Nellore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Cuddapah .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Anantapur .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Bellary .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Kurnool .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Trichinopoly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Madura .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Tinnevelly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 23·0 | 11·5 | 91·7 | .. |
| South Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cumbu. | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Coimbatore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |

Read—also the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India (Finance and Commerce Department—Salaries, Establishments, Etc., Compensation), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 20th May 1897, No. 2287-Ex. :—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 136, dated the 4th March 1897, on the subject of the modification of the rules regarding the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to servants of Government on civil establishments.

2. Under the rules, as they now stand, grain compensation is not admissible until the selling price of the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people of the district is dearer than 12 seers a rupee. It is explained, however, that the normal prices of the staple food-grains in different districts in the Madras Presidency vary considerably, so that in some districts a slight increase in the price of the staple food-grain "entitles" Government servants to compensation, while in others no relief is admissible even when the prices have risen very largely. Inequalities such as these in the working of the rules are, it is stated, a source of great hardship, and a remedy is suggested by the adoption of percentage increases over normal prices as the basis of compensation.

3. In reply, I am directed to refer to the letter from this Department, No. 3040, dated the 18th June 1889, and to observe that the price limits stated in the present rules should not be regarded as those beyond which Government employés are *entitled* to compensation. They are merely laid down as the rates at which discretion is given to Local Governments to grant it. Most of the inequalities, which the Government of Madras urge in the operation of the present limits, can therefore be met and avoided by the discretion vested in the Local Governments as regards the application of the rules. Compensation for dearness of food should not be given, that is, merely because the case falls technically within the limits of Article 72, Volume I, of the Civil Account Code; there must be at the same time such a pressure on the resources of the inferior Government servants that a temporary increase in their pay is urgently required. As the Madras Government justly observe, the discretion vested in them enables them to withhold compensation in cases where, though permissible by rule, it is not really required.

4. I am to add that in the opinion of the Government of India a departure from the present rule to that of a standard fixed by a ratio of increase over normal rates would open the door to so many difficulties in the establishment of rates that it would give rise to more doubts and correspondence over the settlement of cases than the present rule of fixed rates tempered in their application by the discretion allowed to Local Governments. The Government of India are also of opinion that as a general rule it is reasonable to hold that until the pressure of scarcity has reached, the point indicated by a price of 12 seers the rupee, the need has not arisen for resorting to the exceptional step of increasing, temporarily, the pay of Government servants on account of the dearness of food.

5. In these circumstances, the Governor-General in Council does not consider it desirable to amend the rules in the manner suggested, and accordingly regrets his inability to sanction the proposals of the Madras Government. If, however, the exceptional circumstances of any district give rise to cases of such hardship that the Government of Madras consider special intervention to be necessary, the Government of India will be prepared to consider any proposal of the Madras Government to admit compensation in such cases although it may not fall within the terms of the rule.

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*Order thereon*—No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government of India letter read above the Board is requested to submit a very early report as to the districts in which compensation to inferior Government servants for dearness of provisions is now urgently required accompanied by a tabular statement showing the course of prices in those districts.



(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
" Financial Department.

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*Resolution*—dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455.

The Board begs to submit the information called for by the Government in the order read above.

2. The average price of cholam, the staple food grain of the Bellary district for the month of May, was 11·98 measures per rupee, and the price has since risen to 11·4 measures per rupee. It is therefore requested that article 72 of the Civil Account Code Part I, Vol. I, may be brought into force in that district.

3. Omitting Bellary, and Ganjám in which district compensation has been granted to Government servants in G.O., No. 135, Revenue, dated 4th March 1897, the following figures show the prices of the cheaper grains usually eaten by the people in the affected districts :—

| District. | Number of measures of 80 tolas each per rupee procurable on June 5th. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | Ragi. |
| Vizagapatam ... ... ... ... ... ... | ... | 13·1 |
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12·6 | ... |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·1 | 16·5 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·5 | 17·7 |

4. It is believed that though ragi is considerably cheaper than cholam in Anantapur and Cuddapah it is not consumed by any classes of Government servants, and the lower prices therefore do not affect them. It seems hard therefore that their sufferings should be tested by the price of a grain they do not touch. As a fact, Government servants generally, even down to the Police, are rice eaters, and the karnams and monigars in the Tamil districts are rice eaters also.

Taking the prices of the grains which are ordinarily consumed by the poorer classes of Government servants, viz., ragi in Vizagapatam and cholam in Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, the lowest price is found to be 13·5 measures per rupee. A taluk peon draws a pay of Rs. 6; he usually has a wife, and say, two children. For his Rs. 6 he can purchase, at 13½ measures to the rupee, 81 measures of grain, which allows him and his family $2\frac{7}{10}$ measures or $5\frac{5}{8}$ lb. a day. Allowing two children to eat as much as an adult, there will be $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for the man, $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for his wife, and $\frac{15}{16}$ lb. each a day for the children, or rather less than the ration purchasable with a C wage, which has been declared by the Sanitary Commissioner insufficient to support life with labour for any prolonged period. It has to be remembered also that the peon is expected to dress himself neatly. It may be taken for granted that no contribution is likely to be made to the common stock by the labour of the woman, for she is not accustomed to busy herself with anything but her household duties.

If the Kurnool price is taken, the allowance for each day is $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. for each adult, and corresponds practically to the minimum ration fixed by the Code.

Adopting the same method of calculation, each adult member of the family of a peon on Rs. 8 per mensem would receive in Cuddapah $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per diem, or just an A ration, and in Kurnool $2\frac{1}{3}$ lb. or $\frac{1}{18}$ lb. more than a B ration.

If the pay is Rs. 10, the corresponding rations are $3\frac{1}{8}$ lb. and 2 $\frac{11}{12}$ lb., the latter being only $\frac{5}{12}$ lb. in excess of the average A ration of a man and a woman.

5. The Board is, therefore, of opinion that in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, although prices have not yet risen to 12 seers per rupee, the case of all Government servants drawing not more than Rs. 10 per mensem is deserving of consideration on the lines indicated in article 72 of Part I of Volume I of the Civil Account Code.

The Board in writing the above has taken the case of a man, his wife and two children. As a fact, these unfortunates, usually, have a large family hanging on to them. For instance, one of the Board's peons, now on famine duty, has a wife, six children, a niece and an aunt, all dependant on him and his pay of Rs. 8. It is perfectly impossible for him to maintain them on his pay, and, being Mussalmans, the females cannot go out to work. For four months a charitable friend has allowed this family Rs. 8 per mensem, but this allowance will stop when the fourth month is over. There are dozens of cases of this kind. The peon above mentioned, before his family was assisted, was in a state of very advanced emaciation and weakness, but has picked up since he got more to eat.

6. The tabulated statement of prices asked for is appended.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Kurnool.
" " " of Bellary.
" " " of Anantapur.
" " " of Cuddapah.
" " " of Vizagapatam.

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## APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing the course of prices in the Deccan districts and Vizagapatam in 1896-97 in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

| Months. | Kurnool. | | Bellary. | | Anantapur. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 26·9 | .. | 30·4 | .. | 30 0 | .. | 33·6 | .. |
| August " .. .. | 27·8 | .. | 31·1 | .. | 29·8 | .. | 33·2 | .. |
| September " .. .. | 26·2 | .. | 28·8 | .. | 27·9 | .. | 31·3 | .. |
| October " .. .. | 17·3 | .. | 18·1 | .. | 18·8 | .. | 22·7 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·1 | 14·5 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 16·0 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 14·2 | 5·6 | 16·9 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 15·5 | .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·3 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 13·4 | 11·9 | 13·8 | 8·7 | 16·9 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 12·9 | 16·3 | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·3 | .. |
| April " .. .. | 13·2 | 13·6 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·9 | 7·9 | 17·4 | .. |
| May " .. .. | 12·9 | 16·3 | 12·0 | 25·0 | 13·5 | 11·1 | 16·9 | .. |



| Months. | Cuddapah. | | | | Vizagapatam. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Ragi. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. | *14·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 25·9 | .. | 29·4 | .. | 28·6 | .. |
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| October " .. .. | 18 9 | .. | 21·7 | .. | 23·9 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·5 | 11·1 | 15·8 | 1·3 | 16·8 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 16·8 | .. | 16·5 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 14·6 | 2·7 | 17·0 | .. | 15·0 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·2 | .. | 14·5 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·2 | 5·6 | 17·4 | .. | 15·2 | .. |
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| May " .. .. | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·7 | .. | 14·8 | .. |

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READ—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th June 1897, Mis. No. 4627.

ABSTRACT.—Recording, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 455, dated 22nd June 1897, letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting sanction for the grant of famine batta to Government servants of certain taluks in the Bellary district.

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READ—endorsement of the Judicial Department, No. 1386, dated 6th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the Inspector-General of Police, No. 2262, dated 30th June 1897, recommending the grant of famine batta to the police force, Bellary.

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ORDER—No. 603, Revenue, dated 21st July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The weekly season reports show that the price of the staple food-grain has become dearer than 12 seers per rupee in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Cuddapah also since the date of the Board's Proceedings first read above, and that this limit was passed in these four districts and in Bellary on the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, week ending 15th May. | Anantapur, week ending 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam " 12th June. | Cuddapah " 10th " |
| Kurnool " 3rd July. | |

The Government therefore resolves to direct that Government servants on civil establishments in these districts be granted the extra allowances permissible under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, 15th May. | Kurnool and Anantapur, 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam, 12th June. | Cuddapah, 10th July. |

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" other Heads of Departments under Revenue Department.
" other Departments of the Secretariat.
" Heads of Imperial Departments working in the Presidency.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
300 Copies.

Public Works Dept

# Government {1897} of Madras.

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Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

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**G.O., No. 603, 21st July 1897.**

2303 W 21/23/8/97

Communicated to officers concerned.

JULY.

To the S.Es I Circle
— do III Circle
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| Vizagapatam .. .. .. .. .. .. | Ragi. | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Gódávari .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
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| Madura .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Tinnevelly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 23·0 | 11·5 | 91·7 | .. |
| South Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cumbu. | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Coimbatore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |

Read—also the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India (Finance and Commerce Department—Salaries, Establishments, Etc., Compensation), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 20th May 1897, No. 2287-Ex. :—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 136, dated the 4th March 1897, on the subject of the modification of the rules regarding the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to servants of Government on civil establishments.

2. Under the rules, as they now stand, grain compensation is not admissible until the selling price of the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people of the district is dearer than 12 seers a rupee. It is explained, however, that the normal prices of the staple food-grains in different districts in the Madras Presidency vary considerably, so that in some districts a slight increase in the price of the staple food-grain "entitles" Government servants to compensation, while in others no relief is admissible even when the prices have risen very largely. Inequalities such as these in the working of the rules are, it is stated, a source of great hardship, and a remedy is suggested by the adoption of percentage increases over normal prices as the basis of compensation.

3. In reply, I am directed to refer to the letter from this Department, No. 3040, dated the 18th June 1889, and to observe that the price limits stated in the present rules should not be regarded as those beyond which Government employés are *entitled* to compensation. They are merely laid down as the rates at which discretion is given to Local Governments to grant it. Most of the inequalities, which the Government of Madras urge in the operation of the present limits, can therefore be met and avoided by the discretion vested in the Local Governments as regards the application of the rules. Compensation for dearness of food should not be given, that is, merely because the case falls technically within the limits of Article 72, Volume I, of the Civil Account Code; there must be at the same time such a pressure on the resources of the inferior Government servants that a temporary increase in their pay is urgently required. As the Madras Government justly observe, the discretion vested in them enables them to withhold compensation in cases where, though permissible by rule, it is not really required.

4. I am to add that in the opinion of the Government of India a departure from the present rule to that of a standard fixed by a ratio of increase over normal rates would open the door to so many difficulties in the establishment of rates that it would give rise to more doubts and correspondence over the settlement of cases than the present rule of fixed rates tempered in their application by the discretion allowed to Local Governments. The Government of India are also of opinion that as a general rule it is reasonable to hold that until the pressure of scarcity has reached, the point indicated by a price of 12 seers the rupee, the need has not arisen for resorting to the exceptional step of increasing, temporarily, the pay of Government servants on account of the dearness of food.

5. In these circumstances, the Governor-General in Council does not consider it desirable to amend the rules in the manner suggested, and accordingly regrets his inability to sanction the proposals of the Madras Government. If, however, the exceptional circumstances of any district give rise to cases of such hardship that the Government of Madras consider special intervention to be necessary, the Government of India will be prepared to consider any proposal of the Madras Government to admit compensation in such cases although it may not fall within the terms of the rule.

---

*Order thereon*—No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government of India letter read above the Board is requested to submit a very early report as to the districts in which compensation to inferior Government servants for dearness of provisions is now urgently required accompanied by a tabular statement showing the course of prices in those districts.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
„ Financial Department.



---

*Resolution*—dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455.

The Board begs to submit the information called for by the Government in the order read above.

2. The average price of cholam, the staple food grain of the Bellary district for the month of May, was 11·98 measures per rupee, and the price has since risen to 11·4 measures per rupee. It is therefore requested that article 72 of the Civil Account Code Part I, Vol. I, may be brought into force in that district.

3. Omitting Bellary, and Ganjám in which district compensation has been granted to Government servants in G.O., No. 135, Revenue, dated 4th March 1897, the following figures show the prices of the cheaper grains usually eaten by the people in the affected districts :—

| District. | Number of measures of 80 tolas each per rupee procurable on June 5th. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | Ragi. |
| Vizagapatam ... ... ... ... ... ... | ... | 13·1 |
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12·6 | ... |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·1 | 16·5 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·5 | 17·7 |

4. It is believed that though ragi is considerably cheaper than cholam in Anantapur and Cuddapah it is not consumed by any classes of Government servants, and the lower prices therefore do not affect them. It seems hard therefore that their sufferings should be tested by the price of a grain they do not touch. As a fact, Government servants generally, even down to the Police, are rice eaters, and the karnams and monigars in the Tamil districts are rice eaters also.

Taking the prices of the grains which are ordinarily consumed by the poorer classes of Government servants, viz., ragi in Vizagapatam and cholam in Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, the lowest price is found to be 13·5 measures per rupee. A taluk peon draws a pay of Rs. 6; he usually has a wife, and say, two children. For his Rs. 6 he can purchase, at $13\frac{1}{2}$ measures to the rupee, 81 measures of grain, which allows him and his family $2\frac{7}{16}$ measures or $5\frac{5}{8}$ lb. a day. Allowing two children to eat as much as an adult, there will be $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for the man, $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for his wife, and $\frac{15}{16}$ lb. each a day for the children, or rather less than the ration purchasable with a C wage, which has been declared by the Sanitary Commissioner insufficient to support life with labour for any prolonged period. It has to be remembered also that the peon is expected to dress himself neatly. It may be taken for granted that no contribution is likely to be made to the common stock by the labour of the woman, for she is not accustomed to busy herself with anything but her household duties.

If the Kurnool price is taken, the allowance for each day is $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. for each adult, and corresponds practically to the minimum ration fixed by the Code.

Adopting the same method of calculation, each adult member of the family of a peon on Rs. 8 per mensem would receive in Cuddapah $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per diem, or just an A ration, and in Kurnool $2\frac{1}{3}$ lb. or $\frac{1}{48}$ lb. more than a B ration.

If the pay is Rs. 10, the corresponding rations are 3⅛ lb. and 2 $\frac{11}{12}$ lb., the latter being only $\frac{5}{12}$ lb. in excess of the average A ration of a man and a woman.

5. The Board is, therefore, of opinion that in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, although prices have not yet risen to 12 seers per rupee, the case of all Government servants drawing not more than Rs. 10 per mensem is deserving of consideration on the lines indicated in article 72 of Part I of Volume I of the Civil Account Code.

The Board in writing the above has taken the case of a man, his wife and two children. As a fact, these unfortunates, usually, have a large family hanging on to them. For instance, one of the Board's peons, now on famine duty, has a wife, six children, a niece and an aunt, all dependant on him and his pay of Rs. 8. It is perfectly impossible for him to maintain them on his pay, and, being Mussalmans, the females cannot go out to work. For four months a charitable friend has allowed this family Rs. 8 per mensem, but this allowance will stop when the fourth month is over. There are dozens of cases of this kind. The peon above mentioned, before his family was assisted, was in a state of very advanced emaciation and weakness, but has picked up since he got more to eat.

6. The tabulated statement of prices asked for is appended.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Kurnool.
" " " of Bellary.
" " " of Anantapur.
" " " of Cuddapah.
" " " of Vizagapatam.

## APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing the course of prices in the Deccan districts and Vizagapatam in 1896-97 in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

| Months. | Kurnool. | | Bellary. | | Anantapur. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 26·9 | .. | 30·4 | .. | 30 0 | .. | 33·6 | .. |
| August " .. .. | 27·8 | .. | 31·1 | .. | 29·8 | .. | 33·2 | .. |
| September " .. .. | 26·2 | .. | 28·8 | .. | 27·9 | .. | 31·3 | .. |
| October " .. .. | 17·3 | .. | 18·1 | .. | 18·8 | .. | 22·7 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·1 | 14·5 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 16·0 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 14·2 | 5·6 | 16·9 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 15·5 | .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·3 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 13·4 | 11·9 | 13·8 | 8·7 | 16·9 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 12·9 | 16·3 | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·3 | .. |
| April " .. .. | 13·2 | 13·6 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·9 | 7·9 | 17·4 | .. |
| May " .. .. | 12·9 | 16·3 | 12·0 | 25·0 | 13·5 | 11·1 | 16·9 | .. |



| Months. | Cuddapah. | | | | Vizagapatam. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Ragi. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. | *14·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 25·9 | .. | 29·4 | .. | 28·6 | .. |
| August " .. .. | 25·0 | .. | 28·6 | .. | 29·1 | .. |
| September " .. .. | 23·7 | .. | 27·4 | .. | 29·7 | .. |
| October " .. .. | 18 9 | .. | 21·7 | .. | 23·9 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·5 | 11·1 | 15·8 | 1·3 | 16·8 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 16·8 | .. | 16·5 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 14·6 | 2·7 | 17·0 | .. | 15·0 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·2 | .. | 14·5 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·2 | 5·6 | 17·4 | .. | 15·2 | .. |
| April " .. .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 17·7 | .. | 15·3 | .. |
| May " .. .. | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·7 | .. | 14·8 | .. |

READ—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th June 1897, Mis. No. 4627.

ABSTRACT.—Recording, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 455, dated 22nd June 1897, letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting sanction for the grant of famine batta to Government servants of certain taluks in the Bellary district.

READ—endorsement of the Judicial Department, No. 1386, dated 6th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the Inspector-General of Police, No. 2262, dated 30th June 1897, recommending the grant of famine batta to the police force, Bellary.

ORDER—No. 603, Revenue, dated 21st July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The weekly season reports show that the price of the staple food-grain has become dearer than 12 seers per rupee in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Cuddapah also since the date of the Board's Proceedings first read above, and that this limit was passed in these four districts and in Bellary on the following dates:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, week ending 15th May. | Anantapur, week ending 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam " 12th June. | Cuddapah " 10th " |
| Kurnool " 3rd July. | |

The Government therefore resolves to direct that Government servants on civil establishments in these districts be granted the extra allowances permissible under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from the following dates:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, 15th May. | Kurnool and Anantapur, 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam, 12th June. | Cuddapah, 10th July. |

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" other Heads of Departments under Revenue Department.
" other Departments of the Secretariat.
" Heads of Imperial Departments working in the Presidency.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
300 Copies.

Public Works Department.

# Government {1897} of Madras.

## REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures

Regd. Spare copies

**G.O., No. 603, 21st July 1897.**

No. 2303 W dy 23-8-97
Communicated to Officers concerned.

**JULY.**

To
The S & I Circle
do — III Circle
& do. Extr P.W. Accounts.

**Famine Batta.**

Directing that Government servants on civil establishments in the districts of Bellary, Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah be granted — under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from certain dates.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455 :—

*Read*—the following G.O., No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Finance and Commerce), dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1897, No. 136, Revenue :—

I am directed to forward copy of the marginally-noted Proceedings of this Government in which His Excellency the Governor in Council has sanctioned the grant of famine batta to Government servants in Ganjám in accordance with the provisions of article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Part I., Volume I., and to invite your attention to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Board's Proceedings printed therein, pointing out that the adoption of a fixed price for all grains and all districts alike as indicative of general scarcity and distress, gives rise to anomalous results, and suggesting a modification of the present rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions.

No. 135, dated 4th March 1897.

2. The Government of India has directed that the grain to be adopted for regulating the grant of compensation should be the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people, that is, the common staple food of the people of the district (*vide* paragraph 9 of the Government of India Resolution, No. 1648, dated 28th March 1888, Finance and Commerce), and it has been explained in Mr. Sinkinson's letter No. 3040, dated 18th June 1889, that the basis of this rule is that "if in any district the common food of the people has risen in price beyond a certain point the fact indicates a general scarcity and pressure in the district causing such distress to Government servants there employed as to warrant an increase to their pay sufficient to mitigate the hardship caused by high prices." The staple-grains adopted by this Government for the different districts in accordance with the above resolution of 1888, are given in the annexed statement from which it will be seen that the normal prices of these grains as determined from the averages of ordinary years vary widely, from 13·4 seers per rupee in Malabar to 32 seers in North Arcot. It will be obvious from an examination of these normal prices (column 3 of the statement) that the fact that the price of the staple adopted has risen to 12 seers per rupee in any district does not necessarily show that there is scarcity or pressure in the district, and that where it *does* indicate distress, the limiting price is reached at different stages of distress in different districts. Thus in Malabar and South Canara a small rise in prices over the normal entitles Government employés therein to famine batta, and in the districts of Ganjám, Nilgiris and Tinnevelly, the grant of such batta is permissible long before scarcity rates are reached. On the other hand in North Arcot, Salem and the Deccan districts no compensation will be payable till prices exceed scarcity rates considerably and till probably very severe distress has set in. The Government has till now avoided inequalities in the working of the rules by the exercise of the discretion vested in it by article 72 of the Civil Account Code, but this discretion only enables it to withhold



compensation where it is permissible under the rules, and not to grant it in cases where there is undoubted distress though the staple-grain has not risen in price above 12 seers per rupee.

3. Second-sort rice is the staple-grain adopted for Ganjám, and as the price of this grain has been for months past higher than 12 seers per rupee, and has now risen beyond the scarcity rate of 10·2 seers, orders have been issued directing the grant of famine batta to Government employés in the district. As yet, however, only test-works have been opened in the district on which about 1,629 persons are employed, and the distress, though undoubted, is not so severe as in the Deccan districts where regular relief-works have been opened in various parts and where over 50,000 persons are in receipt of State relief. Government servants in these districts in receipt of small salaries are certainly in greater need of help from Government than those in Ganjám, but as the staple-grain of these districts, viz., cholam, is still cheaper than 12 seers per rupee they are not entitled to any concession under the rules. This is an undoubted inequality in the working of the rules which the Local Government cannot rectify.

| Months. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| November ... ... ... ... | 10·4 |
| December ... ... ... ... | 10·3 |
| January ... ... ... ... | 10·2 |
| February (average of the first 3 weeks) | 10·0 |

Week ending 20th February 1897.

| Districts. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... | 14·2 |
| Bellary ... ... ... ... | 13·1 |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... | 13·7 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... | 14·5 |

4. The object of the Government of India in framing the rules being to mitigate the hardship caused to its employés by high prices in times of general scarcity and pressure, it appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council for the reasons set forth above, that definite percentage increases over normal prices are a fairer and surer gauge of such scarcity and pressure than a fixed price for all grains and places alike. The warning and scarcity rates adopted for the various districts are based on the principle of percentage increases, and I am to suggest that the same principle may also be adopted in article 72 of the Civil Account Code.

## APPENDIX.

| Districts. | Grain. | Normal price. | Scarcity rates. | Percentage rise above normal prices when compensation will be allowable. | Percentage rise above scarcity rates before compensation may be allowed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ganjám .. .. .. .. .. .. | Rice, 2nd sort. | 17·0 | 10·2 | 41·7 | .. |
| South Canara .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 14·0 | 8·4 | 16·7 | .. |
| Malabar .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 13·4 | 8·0 | 11·7 | .. |
| Vizagapatam .. .. .. .. .. .. | Ragi. | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Gódávari .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Madras .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Chingleput .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| North Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 32·0 | 16·0 | 166·7 | 33·3 |
| Tanjore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Nilgiris .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 21·0 | 10·5 | 75·0 | .. |
| Salem .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 31·0 | 15·5 | 158·3 | 29·2 |
| Kistna .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Nellore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Cuddapah .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cholam. | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Anantapur .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Bellary .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Kurnool .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Trichinopoly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12 0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Madura .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Tinnevelly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 23·0 | 11·5 | 91·7 | .. |
| South Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cumbu. | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Coimbatore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |

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I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 136, dated the 4th March 1897, on the subject of the modification of the rules regarding the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to servants of Government on civil establishments.

2. Under the rules, as they now stand, grain compensation is not admissible until the selling price of the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people of the district is dearer than 12 seers a rupee. It is explained, however, that the normal prices of the staple food-grains in different districts in the Madras Presidency vary considerably, so that in some districts a slight increase in the price of the staple food-grain "entitles" Government servants to compensation, while in others no relief is admissible even when the prices have risen very largely. Inequalities such as these in the working of the rules are, it is stated, a source of great hardship, and a remedy is suggested by the adoption of percentage increases over normal prices as the basis of compensation.

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4. I am to add that in the opinion of the Government of India a departure from the present rule to that of a standard fixed by a ratio of increase over normal rates would open the door to so many difficulties in the establishment of rates that it would give rise to more doubts and correspondence over the settlement of cases than the present rule of fixed rates tempered in their application by the discretion allowed to Local Governments. The Government of India are also of opinion that as a general rule it is reasonable to hold that until the pressure of scarcity has reached, the point indicated by a price of 12 seers the rupee, the need has not arisen for resorting to the exceptional step of increasing, temporarily, the pay of Government servants on account of the dearness of food.

5. In these circumstances, the Governor-General in Council does not consider it desirable to amend the rules in the manner suggested, and accordingly regrets his inability to sanction the proposals of the Madras Government. If, however, the exceptional circumstances of any district give rise to cases of such hardship that the Government of Madras consider special intervention to be necessary, the Government of India will be prepared to consider any proposal of the Madras Government to admit compensation in such cases although it may not fall within the terms of the rule.

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*Order thereon*—No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

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compensation to inferior Government servants for dearness of provisions is now urgently required accompanied by a tabular statement showing the course of prices in those districts.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
„ Financial Department.

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| District. | Number of measures of 80 tolas each per rupee procurable on June 5th. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | Ragi. |
| Vizagapatam ... ... ... ... ... ... | ... | 13·1 |
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12·6 | ... |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·1 | 16·5 |
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Taking the prices of the grains which are ordinarily consumed by the poorer classes of Government servants, viz., ragi in Vizagapatam and cholam in Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, the lowest price is found to be 13·5 measures per rupee. A taluk peon draws a pay of Rs. 6; he usually has a wife, and say, two children. For his Rs. 6 he can purchase, at $13\frac{1}{2}$ measures to the rupee, 81 measures of grain, which allows him and his family $2\frac{7}{10}$ measures or $5\frac{5}{8}$ lb. a day. Allowing two children to eat as much as an adult, there will be $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for the man, $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for his wife, and $\frac{15}{16}$ lb. each a day for the children, or rather less than the ration purchasable with a C wage, which has been declared by the Sanitary Commissioner insufficient to support life with labour for any prolonged period. It has to be remembered also that the peon is expected to dress himself neatly. It may be taken for granted that no contribution is likely to be made to the common stock by the labour of the woman, for she is not accustomed to busy herself with anything but her household duties.

If the Kurnool price is taken, the allowance for each day is $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. for each adult, and corresponds practically to the minimum ration fixed by the Code.

Adopting the same method of calculation, each adult member of the family of a peon on Rs. 8 per mensem would receive in Cuddapah $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per diem, or just an A ration, and in Kurnool $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or $\frac{1}{16}$ lb. more than a B ration.

If the pay is Rs. 10, the corresponding rations are $3\frac{1}{8}$ lb. and $2\ \frac{11}{12}$ lb., the latter being only $\frac{5}{12}$ lb. in excess of the average A ration of a man and a woman.

5. The Board is, therefore, of opinion that in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, although prices have not yet risen to 12 seers per rupee, the case of all Government servants drawing not more than Rs. 10 per mensem is deserving of consideration on the lines indicated in article 72 of Part I of Volume I of the Civil Account Code.

The Board in writing the above has taken the case of a man, his wife and two children. As a fact, these unfortunates, usually, have a large family hanging on to them. For instance, one of the Board's peons, now on famine duty, has a wife, six children, a niece and an aunt, all dependant on him and his pay of Rs. 8. It is perfectly impossible for him to maintain them on his pay, and, being Mussalmans, the females cannot go out to work. For four months a charitable friend has allowed this family Rs. 8 per mensem, but this allowance will stop when the fourth month is over. There are dozens of cases of this kind. The peon above mentioned, before his family was assisted, was in a state of very advanced emaciation and weakness, but has picked up since he got more to eat.

6. The tabulated statement of prices asked for is appended.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Kurnool.
" " " of Bellary.
" " " of Anantapur.
" " " of Cuddapah.
" " " of Vizagapatam.

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## APPENDIX.

Statement showing the course of prices in the Deccan districts and Vizagapatam in 1896-97 in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

| Months. | Kurnool. | | Bellary. | | Anantapur. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 26·9 | .. | 30·4 | .. | 30 0 | .. | 33·6 | .. |
| August ,, .. .. | 27·8 | .. | 31·1 | .. | 29·8 | .. | 33·2 | .. |
| September ,, .. .. | 26·2 | .. | 28·8 | .. | 27·9 | .. | 31·3 | .. |
| October ,, .. .. | 17·3 | .. | 18·1 | .. | 18·8 | .. | 22·7 | .. |
| November ,, .. .. | 13·1 | 14·5 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 16·0 | .. |
| December ,, .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 14·2 | 5·6 | 16·9 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 15·5 | .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·3 | .. |
| February ,, .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 13·4 | 11·9 | 13·8 | 8·7 | 16·9 | .. |
| March ,, .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 12·9 | 16·3 | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·3 | .. |
| April ,, .. .. | 13·2 | 13·6 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·9 | 7·9 | 17·4 | .. |
| May ,, .. .. | 12·9 | 16·3 | 12·0 | 25·0 | 13·5 | 11·1 | 16·9 | .. |



| Months. | Cuddapah. | | | | Vizagapatam. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Ragi. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. | *14·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 25·9 | .. | 29·4 | .. | 28·6 | .. |
| August ,, .. .. | 25·0 | .. | 28·6 | .. | 29·1 | .. |
| September ,, .. .. | 23·7 | .. | 27·4 | .. | 29·7 | .. |
| October ,, .. .. | 18 9 | .. | 21·7 | .. | 23·9 | .. |
| November ,, .. .. | 13·5 | 11·1 | 15·8 | 1·3 | 16·8 | .. |
| December ,, .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 16·8 | .. | 16·5 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 14·6 | 2·7 | 17·0 | .. | 15·0 | .. |
| February ,, .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·2 | .. | 14·5 | .. |
| March ,, .. .. | 14·2 | 5·6 | 17·4 | .. | 15·2 | .. |
| April ,, .. .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 17·7 | .. | 15·3 | .. |
| May ,, .. .. | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·7 | .. | 14·8 | .. |

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Read—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th June 1897, Mis. No. 4627.

Abstract.—Recording, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 455, dated 22nd June 1897, letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting sanction for the grant of famine batta to Government servants of certain taluks in the Bellary district.

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Read—endorsement of the Judicial Department, No. 1386, dated 6th July 1897.

Abstract.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the Inspector-General of Police, No. 2262, dated 30th June 1897, recommending the grant of famine batta to the police force, Bellary.

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Order—No. 603, Revenue, dated 21st July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The weekly season reports show that the price of the staple food-grain has become dearer than 12 seers per rupee in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Cuddapah also since the date of the Board's Proceedings first read above, and that this limit was passed in these four districts and in Bellary on the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, week ending 15th May. | Anantapur, week ending 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam ,, 12th June. | Cuddapah ,, 10th ,, |
| Kurnool ,, 3rd July. | |

The Government therefore resolves to direct that Government servants on civil establishments in these districts be granted the extra allowances permissible under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, 15th May. | Kurnool and Anantapur, 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam, 12th June. | Cuddapah, 10th July. |

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" other Heads of Departments under Revenue Department.
" other Departments of the Secretariat.
" Heads of Imperial Departments working in the Presidency.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
300 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455 :—

*Read*—the following G.O., No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from G. STOKES, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Finance and Commerce), dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1897, No. 136, Revenue :—

I am directed to forward copy of the marginally-noted Proceedings of this Government in which His Excellency the Governor in Council has sanctioned the grant of famine batta to Government servants in Ganjám in accordance with the provisions of article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Part I., Volume I., and to invite your attention to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Board's Proceedings printed therein, pointing out that the adoption of a fixed price for all grains and all districts alike as indicative of general scarcity and distress, gives rise to anomalous results, and suggesting a modification of the present rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions.

No. 135, dated 4th March 1897.

2. The Government of India has directed that the grain to be adopted for regulating the grant of compensation should be the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people, that is, the common staple food of the people of the district (*vide* paragraph 9 of the Government of India Resolution, No. 1648, dated 28th March 1888, Finance and Commerce), and it has been explained in Mr. Sinkinson's letter No. 3040, dated 18th June 1889, that the basis of this rule is that "if in any district the common food of the people has risen in price beyond a certain point the fact indicates a general scarcity and pressure in the district causing such distress to Government servants there employed as to warrant an increase to their pay sufficient to mitigate the hardship caused by high prices." The staple-grains adopted by this Government for the different districts in accordance with the above resolution of 1888, are given in the annexed statement from which it will be seen that the normal prices of these grains as determined from the averages of ordinary years vary widely, from 13·4 seers per rupee in Malabar to 32 seers in North Arcot. It will be obvious from an examination of these normal prices (column 3 of the statement) that the fact that the price of the staple adopted has risen to 12 seers per rupee in any district does not necessarily show that there is scarcity or pressure in the district, and that where it *does* indicate distress, the limiting price is reached at different stages of distress in different districts. Thus in Malabar and South Canara a small rise in prices over the normal entitles Government employés therein to famine batta, and in the districts of Ganjám, Nilgiris and Tinnevelly, the grant of such batta is permissible long before scarcity rates are reached. On the other hand in North Arcot, Salem and the Deccan districts no compensation will be payable till prices exceed scarcity rates considerably and till probably very severe distress has set in. The Government has till now avoided in equalities in the working of the rules by the exercise of the discretion vested in it by article 72 of the Civil Account Code, but this discretion only enables it to withhold



compensation where it is permissible under the rules, and not to grant it in cases where there is undoubted distress though the staple-grain has not risen in price above 12 seers per rupee.

3. Second-sort rice is the staple-grain adopted for Ganjám, and as the price of this grain has been for months past higher than 12 seers per rupee, and has now risen beyond the scarcity rate of 10·2 seers, orders have been issued directing the grant of famine batta to Government employés in the district. As yet, however, only test-works have been opened in the district on which about 1,629 persons are employed, and the distress, though undoubted, is not so severe as in the Deccan districts where regular relief-works have been opened in various parts and where over 50,000 persons are in receipt of State relief. Government servants in these districts in receipt of small salaries are certainly in greater need of help from Government than those in Ganjám, but as the staple-grain of these districts, viz., cholam, is still cheaper than 12 seers per rupee they are not entitled to any concession under the rules. This is an undoubted inequality in the working of the rules which the Local Government cannot rectify.

| Months. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| November ... ... ... ... | 10·4 |
| December ... ... ... ... | 10·3 |
| January ... ... ... ... | 10·2 |
| February (average of the first 3 weeks) | 10·0 |

Week ending 20th February 1897.

| Districts. | Seers per Re. |
|---|---|
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... | 14·2 |
| Bellary ... ... ... ... | 13·1 |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... | 13·7 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... | 14·5 |

4. The object of the Government of India in framing the rules being to mitigate the hardship caused to its employés by high prices in times of general scarcity and pressure, it appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council for the reasons set forth above, that definite percentage increases over normal prices are a fairer and surer gauge of such scarcity and pressure than a fixed price for all grains and places alike. The warning and scarcity rates adopted for the various districts are based on the principle of percentage increases, and I am to suggest that the same principle may also be adopted in article 72 of the Civil Account Code.

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APPENDIX.

| Districts. | Grain. | Normal price. | Scarcity rates. | Percentage rise above normal prices when compensation will be allowable. | Percentage rise above scarcity rates before compensation may be allowed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ganjám .. .. .. .. .. .. | Rice, 2nd sort. | 17·0 | 10·2 | 41·7 | .. |
| South Canara .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 14·0 | 8·4 | 16·7 | .. |
| Malabar .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 13·4 | 8·0 | 11·7 | .. |
| Vizagapatam .. .. .. .. .. .. | Ragi. | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Gódávari .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Madras .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Chingleput .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| North Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 32·0 | 16·0 | 166·7 | 33·3 |
| Tanjore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 28·0 | 14·0 | 133·3 | 16·7 |
| Nilgiris .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 21·0 | 10·5 | 75·0 | .. |
| Salem .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 31·0 | 15·5 | 158·3 | 29·2 |
| Kistna .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Nellore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Cuddapah .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cholam. | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Anantapur .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Bellary .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Kurnool .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 30·0 | 15·0 | 150·0 | 25·0 |
| Trichinopoly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Madura .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 24·0 | 12·0 | 100·0 | 0·0 |
| Tinnevelly .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 23·0 | 11·5 | 91·7 | .. |
| South Arcot .. .. .. .. .. .. | Cumbu. | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |
| Coimbatore .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 26·0 | 13·0 | 116·7 | 8·3 |

Read—also the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India (Finance and Commerce Department—Salaries, Establishments, Etc., Compensation), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 20th May 1897, No. 2287-Ex.:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 136, dated the 4th March 1897, on the subject of the modification of the rules regarding the grant of compensation for dearness of provisions to servants of Government on civil establishments.

2. Under the rules, as they now stand, grain compensation is not admissible until the selling price of the cheapest grain of any kind commonly used by the people of the district is dearer than 12 seers a rupee. It is explained, however, that the normal prices of the staple food-grains in different districts in the Madras Presidency vary considerably, so that in some districts a slight increase in the price of the staple food-grain "entitles" Government servants to compensation, while in others no relief is admissible even when the prices have risen very largely. Inequalities such as these in the working of the rules are, it is stated, a source of great hardship, and a remedy is suggested by the adoption of percentage increases over normal prices as the basis of compensation.

3. In reply, I am directed to refer to the letter from this Department, No. 3040, dated the 18th June 1889, and to observe that the price limits stated in the present rules should not be regarded as those beyond which Government employés are *entitled* to compensation. They are merely laid down as the rates at which discretion is given to Local Governments to grant it. Most of the inequalities, which the Government of Madras urge in the operation of the present limits, can therefore be met and avoided by the discretion vested in the Local Governments as regards the application of the rules. Compensation for dearness of food should not be given, that is, merely because the case falls technically within the limits of Article 72, Volume I, of the Civil Account Code; there must be at the same time such a pressure on the resources of the inferior Government servants that a temporary increase in their pay is urgently required. As the Madras Government justly observe, the discretion vested in them enables them to withhold compensation in cases where, though permissible by rule, it is not really required.

4. I am to add that in the opinion of the Government of India a departure from the present rule to that of a standard fixed by a ratio of increase over normal rates would open the door to so many difficulties in the establishment of rates that it would give rise to more doubts and correspondence over the settlement of cases than the present rule of fixed rates tempered in their application by the discretion allowed to Local Governments. The Government of India are also of opinion that as a general rule it is reasonable to hold that until the pressure of scarcity has reached, the point indicated by a price of 12 seers the rupee, the need has not arisen for resorting to the exceptional step of increasing, temporarily, the pay of Government servants on account of the dearness of food.

5. In these circumstances, the Governor-General in Council does not consider it desirable to amend the rules in the manner suggested, and accordingly regrets his inability to sanction the proposals of the Madras Government. If, however, the exceptional circumstances of any district give rise to cases of such hardship that the Government of Madras consider special intervention to be necessary, the Government of India will be prepared to consider any proposal of the Madras Government to admit compensation in such cases although it may not fall within the terms of the rule.

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*Order thereon*—No. 439, Revenue, dated 4th June 1897.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government of India letter read above the Board is requested to submit a very early report as to the districts in which compensation to inferior Government servants for dearness of provisions is now urgently required accompanied by a tabular statement showing the course of prices in those districts.



(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
„ Financial Department.

---

*Resolution*—dated 22nd June 1897, No. 455.

The Board begs to submit the information called for by the Government in the order read above.

2. The average price of cholam, the staple food grain of the Bellary district for the month of May, was 11·98 measures per rupee, and the price has since risen to 11·4 measures per rupee. It is therefore requested that article 72 of the Civil Account Code Part I, Vol. I, may be brought into force in that district.

3. Omitting Bellary, and Ganjám in which district compensation has been granted to Government servants in G.O., No. 135, Revenue, dated 4th March 1897, the following figures show the prices of the cheaper grains usually eaten by the people in the affected districts:—

| District. | Number of measures of 80 tolas each per rupee procurable on June 5th. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | Ragi. |
| Vizagapatam ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | ... | 13·1 |
| Kurnool ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12·6 | ... |
| Anantapur ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·1 | 16·5 |
| Cuddapah ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13·5 | 17·7 |

4. It is believed that though ragi is considerably cheaper than cholam in Anantapur and Cuddapah it is not consumed by any classes of Government servants, and the lower prices therefore do not affect them. It seems hard therefore that their sufferings should be tested by the price of a grain they do not touch. As a fact, Government servants generally, even down to the Police, are rice eaters, and the karnams and monigars in the Tamil districts are rice eaters also.

Taking the prices of the grains which are ordinarily consumed by the poorer classes of Government servants, viz., ragi in Vizagapatam and cholam in Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, the lowest price is found to be 13·5 measures per rupee. A taluk peon draws a pay of Rs. 6; he usually has a wife, and say, two children. For his Rs. 6 he can purchase, at $13\frac{1}{2}$ measures to the rupee, 81 measures of grain, which allows him and his family $2\frac{7}{10}$ measures or $5\frac{5}{8}$ lb. a day. Allowing two children to eat as much as an adult, there will be $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for the man, $1\frac{7}{8}$ lb. a day for his wife, and $\frac{15}{16}$ lb. each a day for the children, or rather less than the ration purchasable with a C wage, which has been declared by the Sanitary Commissioner insufficient to support life with labour for any prolonged period. It has to be remembered also that the peon is expected to dress himself neatly. It may be taken for granted that no contribution is likely to be made to the common stock by the labour of the woman, for she is not accustomed to busy herself with anything but her household duties.

If the Kurnool price is taken, the allowance for each day is $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. for each adult, and corresponds practically to the minimum ration fixed by the Code.

Adopting the same method of calculation, each adult member of the family of a peon on Rs. 8 per mensem would receive in Cuddapah $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per diem, or just an A ration, and in Kurnool $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or $\frac{1}{16}$ lb. more than a B ration.

If the pay is Rs. 10, the corresponding rations are $3\frac{1}{8}$ lb. and 2 $\frac{11}{12}$ lb., the latter being only $\frac{5}{12}$ lb. in excess of the average A ration of a man and a woman.

5. The Board is, therefore, of opinion that in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur and Cuddapah, although prices have not yet risen to 12 seers per rupee, the case of all Government servants drawing not more than Rs. 10 per mensem is deserving of consideration on the lines indicated in article 72 of Part I of Volume I of the Civil Account Code.

The Board in writing the above has taken the case of a man, his wife and two children. As a fact, these unfortunates, usually, have a large family hanging on to them. For instance, one of the Board's peons, now on famine duty, has a wife, six children, a niece and an aunt, all dependant on him and his pay of Rs. 8. It is perfectly impossible for him to maintain them on his pay, and, being Mussalmans, the females cannot go out to work. For four months a charitable friend has allowed this family Rs. 8 per mensem, but this allowance will stop when the fourth month is over. There are dozens of cases of this kind. The peon above mentioned, before his family was assisted, was in a state of very advanced emaciation and weakness, but has picked up since he got more to eat.

6. The tabulated statement of prices asked for is appended.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Kurnool.
" " " of Bellary.
" " " of Anantapur.
" " " of Cuddapah.
" " " of Vizagapatam.

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## APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing the course of prices in the Deccan districts and Vizagapatam in 1896-97 in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

| Months. | Kurnool. | | Bellary. | | Anantapur. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Cholam. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 26·9 | .. | 30·4 | .. | 30 0 | .. | 33·6 | .. |
| August " .. .. | 27·8 | .. | 31·1 | .. | 29·8 | .. | 33·2 | .. |
| September " .. .. | 26·2 | .. | 28·8 | .. | 27·9 | .. | 31·3 | .. |
| October " .. .. | 17·3 | .. | 18·1 | .. | 18·8 | .. | 22·7 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·1 | 14·5 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 16·0 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 13·6 | 10·3 | 14·2 | 5·6 | 16·9 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 15·5 | .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·3 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 13·4 | 11·9 | 13·8 | 8·7 | 16·9 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 12·9 | 16·3 | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·3 | .. |
| April " .. .. | 13·2 | 13·6 | 12·1 | 24·0 | 13·9 | 7·9 | 17·4 | .. |
| May " .. .. | 12·9 | 16·3 | 12·0 | 25·0 | 13·5 | 11·1 | 16·9 | .. |



| Months. | Cuddapah. | | | | Vizagapatam. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cholam. | | Ragi. | | Ragi. | |
| | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. | Average price. | Percentage of increase over scarcity rate. |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| *Scarcity rates* .. .. | *15·0* | .. | *16·0* | .. | *14·0* | .. |
| July 1896 .. .. | 25·9 | .. | 29·4 | .. | 28·6 | .. |
| August " .. .. | 25·0 | .. | 28·6 | .. | 29·1 | .. |
| September " .. .. | 23·7 | .. | 27·4 | .. | 29·7 | .. |
| October " .. .. | 18·9 | .. | 21·7 | .. | 23·9 | .. |
| November " .. .. | 13·5 | 11·1 | 15·8 | 1·3 | 16·8 | .. |
| December " .. .. | 14·0 | 7·1 | 16·8 | .. | 16·5 | .. |
| January 1897 .. .. | 14·6 | 2·7 | 17·0 | .. | 15·0 | .. |
| February " .. .. | 14·4 | 4·2 | 17·2 | .. | 14·5 | .. |
| March " .. .. | 14·2 | 5·6 | 17·4 | .. | 15·2 | .. |
| April " .. .. | 14·3 | 4·9 | 17·7 | .. | 15·3 | .. |
| May " .. .. | 14·1 | 6·4 | 17·7 | .. | 14·8 | .. |

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ABSTRACT.—Recording, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 455, dated 22nd June 1897, letter from the Collector of Bellary requesting sanction for the grant of famine batta to Government servants of certain taluks in the Bellary district.

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Miscellaneous.

The weekly season reports show that the price of the staple food-grain has become dearer than 12 seers per rupee in the districts of Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Cuddapah also since the date of the Board's Proceedings first read above, and that this limit was passed in these four districts and in Bellary on the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, week ending 15th May. | Anantapur, week ending 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam " 12th June. | Cuddapah " 10th " |
| Kurnool " 3rd July. | |

The Government therefore resolves to direct that Government servants on civil establishments in these districts be granted the extra allowances permissible under article 72 of the Civil Account Code with effect from the following dates :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Bellary, 15th May. | Kurnool and Anantapur, 3rd July. |
| Vizagapatam, 12th June. | Cuddapah, 10th July. |

(True Extract.)

*for* Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
" the Financial Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" other Heads of Departments under Revenue Department.
" other Departments of the Secretariat.
" Heads of Imperial Departments working in the Presidency.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
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