

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2440

DATED 3rd September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Concentration of Relief Works: Pro: Revenue
Dept. Recording Board's Pro: Com. to Collectors,
with remarks Govt. order directing that no new
works should be opened till — is effected
and that the intermediate works system should
be introduced at an early date. Recorded
with reference to G.O. No. 1983, W. of 23. July 1897

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 24th July 1897, No. 527 :—

Read—the following G.O., No. 485, Revenue, dated 23rd June 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from W. DEMORGAN, Esq., M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, Ganjam Division, to the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, dated 2nd June 1897, No. 9 S. E. F :—

In continuation of my telegram, I have the honour to inform you that the number of famine-relief works is increasing in an extraordinary way.

I am called upon to start at once a number of works which will absorb all the twelve subordinates I now ask for, and which I cannot start until they arrive.

I had a personal consultation with the Collector yesterday and he agrees with me that twelve additional hands is the least I can manage with and that eventually more than twelve will be required. I may add that I have already two Local Fund Overseers placed at my disposal, I have therefore the honour to request that you will address the Chief Engineer and request him to post men as soon as he can, sending them up in batches.

Considering the lines on which relief operations are conducted here, it is impossible to say how many subordinates may not be required.

Endorsement thereon of the Superintending Engineer, No. 231-G.N., dated 5th June 1897.

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. There are now including seven subordinates just posted (but not yet joined) twenty-one subordinates employed in Ganjam on relief works. It would appear that some radical change in the lines alluded to by the Executive Engineer is essential. The Collector's idea is to start chains of works. This system may be correct in theory, but it is impracticable and it will be impossible to meet the demands for subordinates. Copy of my letter to the Collector on the subject is herewith forwarded for your information.

ENCLOSURE.

From J. C. LARMINIE, Esq., M.I.C.E., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Collector of Ganjam, dated 5th June 1897, No. 230-G.N.

I have the honour to request your consideration of the principle on which relief works are now being opened in Ganjam.

I understand from the Executive Engineer that your idea is to open chains of works, but judging by the demands for Public Works subordinate supervision lately received, I must point out that this system cannot be followed out to any great extent, simply from the impossibility of providing means of supervision. Twenty-one subordinates are now employed on relief works in Ganjam. Of these eight are lower subordinates, men who have had more or less of some engineering training. But the supply of even this class is now exhausted, and I have wired to the Chief Engineer to know if important works and irrigation interests which should, in my opinion, be paramount, are to give way to the demands for famine-relief works. In all the other Public Works Department Circles the ordinary strength has been so much reduced that the Chief Engineer has represented the impossibility of any longer meeting the demand for subordinates, and in this circle any further demand (and that to no very great extent) can only be met at a sacrifice of other important interests.

I would therefore suggest that your relief works should be more concentrated. If distress is so very acute, it will not be too much to expect labourers to go, say 30 miles from their villages in search of employment (for greater distances are traversed in search of work in ordinary times). Of course, with this alternative, it will be necessary to provide hutting materials, but this will not be a very heavy item of expenditure.

The Executive Engineer reports that "considering the lines on which relief operations are now being conducted, it is impossible to say how many subordinates may not be required." But as I have endeavoured to make clear, the limit of supply has nearly been reached.

Endorsement thereon of the Public Works Department, No. 516-D., dated 12th June 1897.

Referred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

Order—No. 485, Revenue, dated 23rd June 1897.

Communicated to the Famine Commissioner.

2. The Government has already passed orders in regard to the difficulty of providing the subordinate establishment necessary for the supervision of scattered relief works, and has directed that wherever possible arrangements should be made for massing relief workers, at selected centres, and till such concentration is effected, Collectors should be told not to open any more new works. The Famine Commissioner should give immediate attention to the matter and should take early steps to introduce the intermediate piece-work system ordered in G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897, with a view to relieve the strain on the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
" Public Works Department.

Resolution—dated 24th July 1897, No. 527.

Communicated to the Collectors of affected Districts for information. The Collectors have already been instructed in B.P., dated 7th July 1897, No. 487, to concentrate labourers on existing works as far as possible.

2. The Government has been addressed regarding the scheme of intermediate works, the carrying out of which under the orders contained in G.O., No. 430, dated 3rd June 1897, is beset with serious difficulties.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Collectors of affected districts.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 683, Revenue, dated 9th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

N

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 683, 9th August 1897.

No. 2440 W.D. 3-9-97.

Recorded with reference to
AUGUST. G.O. No. 1985. W.D. 23-7-97

(By D.M.C.
W)

S.E. I. c. 10
S.E. III. c. 10.

Concentration of Works.

Recording Board's Proceedings communicating to Collectors, with remarks, Government Order directing that no new works should be opened till — is effected, and that the intermediate works system should be introduced at an early date.

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