

Public Works (189) ) Depart.

G.O., No. 274725

DATED 2 October 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Advances to Lyots for petty village relief works.

Proo. Revenue Dept for forwarding to the Board of Revenue with remarks papers regarding the grant of Small - and requesting the Board to draw up a set of rules on the subject. Com to C.S.E. for information.

Current No: 9319

## REVENUE.

*Enclosures* —

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Forwarding to the Board of Revenue, with remarks, papers regarding the —, and requesting the Board to draw up a set of rules on the subject.

o. L. S. 502

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Stating that enquiries will be made in the Local and Municipal Department as to whether Local Boards in the affected districts will be prepared to work on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village relief works; and requesting also the Board of Revenue to report on the subject.

READ—again G.O., No. 1232, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding to the Board of Revenue, for consideration, letters from the Presidents, District Boards of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Kurnool, offering remarks on the system of working on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village relief works.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1271, Revenue, dated 8th July 1897 :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 29th June 1897, Mis. No. 4661 :—

Read—G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897.

Read—G.O., No. 265, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897, recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of famine relief.

Resolution—dated 29th June 1897, Mis. No. 4661.

The Famine Commissioner begs to reply to G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897. The printed copy of this Government Order, with the rules for the undertaking and control of village relief works, was not received till 13th May.

2. The rules in question contemplate the granting of loans to talukdars, zemindars or other landed proprietors for the following purposes :—

- (1) Improving existing tanks on or near the village-site, or digging new ones.
- (2) Constructing or repairing embankments to hold up water for agricultural purposes.
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- (5) Improving the drinking wells of a village, or making new ones, when this affords suitable relief labour.
- (6) In exceptional cases, repairing or constructing masonry wells used for irrigation purposes.

3. The 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th objects for which the loans may be granted cover works that will ordinarily be undertaken by Municipal Councils and District and Taluk Boards. The rules have been referred to the Local and Municipal Department for opinion, and the Famine Commissioner therefore considers it unnecessary to discuss the proposals which affect only the above-named bodies.

4. All loans for the 6th object should be granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act, as is indeed contemplated by the rules themselves.

5. There remains the second object to be considered, viz., the construction or repair of embankments to hold up water for agricultural purposes. Such works may be found to exist or to be required in either ryotwari or zemindari tracts. In the former case, Government acknowledge its liability to construct, improve and repair; loans will, therefore, not be required for such purposes. With regard to the grant of loans for the construction and repair of tanks in zemindari areas, the Famine Commissioner considers that it will be impossible to enforce the conditions laid down in rules 10 and 12 (pages 3 and 4 of G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897). The zemindar will naturally want to lay out whatever money he gets to the best advantage and to have the work done by efficient labour. All applicants for work will not be employed unless the works receive as much supervision as regularly constituted relief works, and it is this strict supervision that the scheme is intended to obviate. Again, the Famine Commissioner hesitates to recommend the advance of loans to zemindars upon a simple bond. Such a proposal was made by him in 1892 with a view to help the Zemindar of Punganur, and was strongly supported by the Board; but the proposal was held to be inadmissible by Government in its Order, No. 163, Revenue, dated 20th February 1892. He is, therefore, of opinion that any loans to zemindars for the purpose named should be made under the Land Improvement Loans Act; but with the experience of Kalahasti before him (*vide* G.O., No. 378, dated 28th April 1891), he is doubtful of much success. However, should any such loans be taken by zemindars, it might be possible to arrange that the work should be carried out as famine works, in return for the free loan of the services of professional men to supervise the works.

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To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

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READ—G.O., No. 754, Local and Municipal, dated 15th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the President, District Board, Anantapur, No. 27, dated 4th July 1897, forwarding copy of Resolution, dated 26th June 1897, stating that there are no funds to undertake and control village relief works on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village works.

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ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the President, District Board, Bellary, Dis. No. 386, dated 23rd July 1897, submitting Resolution of the District Board, Bellary, expressing its views in regard to the rules for the undertaking and control of village relief works as desired in G.O., Mis. No. 956 L., dated 19th May 1897.

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3. Two things stand out clearly—first, that the number of persons likely to accept loans under the scheme is extremely limited, and second, that there is considerable risk of the very classes, to whom the works are intended to give employment, not being employed at all. The works will be small, isolated and difficult of efficient supervision.

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ORDER—No. 722, Revenue, dated 26th August 1897.

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The Famine Commissioner and the District Boards consulted by the Local and Municipal Department have misunderstood the object of Government in referring the North-Western Provinces rules to them for report. The Government did not intend to enquire if the rules framed

for the North-Western Provinces could be adopted *en bloc* in this Presidency, but to ascertain whether any similar rules could be laid down under which relief might be given in distressed villages by making petty advances to villagers for small village works.

2. It is clear from the papers read above that nothing in this direction can be done by Municipalities or Local Boards, and that this form of relief should be undertaken solely by Government. It is also obvious that the extent to which relief can be given in this form is very limited in this Presidency, though there are exceptional cases in which advances of the kind can advantageously be made in times of distress and will be gladly availed of. There are in every district a number of large ryots (Ekaboghamdars) and of owners of whole inam villages who might be willing to take such advances. Further, though a village head or a single ryot of a village may not be willing to make himself responsible for the partial repayment of a loan on account of a village improvement, there are possibly places in which all the chief ryots may combine and be willing to make themselves jointly and severally responsible; the Government believes that such combinations are usual in hill villages as in Bhadrachalam, where, according to a recent report of the Collector of Gódavari, advances to the headmen for the common benefit of the villagers are repayable by the whole community.

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„ the Public Works Department.  
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

80 Copies.

Government { 1897 } of Madras  
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for the North-Western Provinces could be adopted *en bloc* in this Presidency, but to ascertain whether any similar rules could be laid down under which relief might be given in distressed villages by making petty advances to villagers for small village works.

2. It is clear from the papers read above that nothing in this direction can be done by Municipalities or Local Boards, and that this form of relief should be undertaken solely by Government. It is also obvious that the extent to which relief can be given in this form is very limited in this Presidency, though there are exceptional cases in which advances of the kind can advantageously be made in times of distress and will be gladly availed of. There are in every district a number of large ryots (Ekaboghamdars) and of owners of whole inam villages who might be willing to take such advances. Further, though a village head or a single ryot of a village may not be willing to make himself responsible for the partial repayment of a loan on account of a village improvement, there are possibly places in which all the chief ryots may combine and be willing to make themselves jointly and severally responsible; the Government believes that such combinations are usual in hill villages as in Bhadrachalam, where, according to a recent report of the Collector of Godavari, advances to the headmen for the common benefit of the villagers are repayable by the whole community.

3. Elaborate rules like those adopted for the North-Western Provinces are not required in this Presidency, where the scheme can have but a limited operation. All that is needed is to set out clearly the conditions under which the advances will be made, viz., the employment of all persons in need of relief, the payment to them of sufficient wages, the application of the whole of the loan on the work for which it is advanced and the repayment of a portion (to be specified) of it in instalments: and to authorize Collectors to make advances under the scheme on being satisfied that the above conditions will be fulfilled.

4. With these remarks the papers are forwarded to the Board of Revenue which will be requested to draw up a set of rules on the lines indicated above.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,  
Land Records and Agriculture).

„ the Famine Commissioner.  
„ the Public Works Department.  
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

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G.O., No. 722, 26th August 1897.

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AUGUST.

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Grant of small advances to ryots for petty village relief works.

Forwarding to the Board of Revenue, with remarks, papers regarding the —, and requesting the Board to draw up a set of rules on the subject.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Stating that enquiries will be made in the Local and Municipal Department as to whether Local Boards in the affected districts will be prepared to work on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village relief works; and requesting also the Board of Revenue to report on the subject.

READ—again G.O., No. 1232, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding to the Board of Revenue, for consideration, letters from the Presidents, District Boards of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Kurnool, offering remarks on the system of working on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village relief works.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1271, Revenue, dated 8th July 1897:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 29th June 1897, Mis. No. 4661:—

Read—G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897.

Read—G.O., No. 265, Revenue, dated 26th April 1897, recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings communicating to Collectors orders of Government on the administration of famine relief.

Resolution—dated 29th June 1897, Mis. No. 4661.

The Famine Commissioner begs to reply to G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897. The printed copy of this Government Order, with the rules for the undertaking and control of village relief works, was not received till 13th May.

2. The rules in question contemplate the granting of loans to talukdars, zemindars or other landed proprietors for the following purposes:—

- (1) Improving existing tanks on or near the village-site, or digging new ones.
- (2) Constructing or repairing embankments to hold up water for agricultural purposes.
- (3) Excavating channels to drain a village-site.
- (4) Filling up insanitary hollows in or near a village-site.
- (5) Improving the drinking wells of a village, or making new ones, when this affords suitable relief labour.
- (6) In exceptional cases, repairing or constructing masonry wells used for irrigation purposes.

3. The 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th objects for which the loans may be granted cover works that will ordinarily be undertaken by Municipal Councils and District and Taluk Boards. The rules have been referred to the Local and Municipal Department for opinion, and the Famine Commissioner therefore considers it unnecessary to discuss the proposals which affect only the above-named bodies.

5. There remains the second object to be considered, viz., the construction or repair of embankments to hold up water for agricultural purposes. Such works may be found to exist or to be required in either ryotwari or zemindari tracts. In the former case, Government acknowledge its liability to construct, improve and repair; loans will, therefore, not be required for such purposes. With regard to the grant of loans for the construction and repair of tanks in zemindari areas, the Famine Commissioner considers that it will be impossible to enforce the conditions laid down in rules 10 and 12 (pages 3 and 4 of G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897). The zemindar will naturally want to lay out whatever money he gets to the best advantage and to have the work done by efficient labour. All applicants for work will not be employed unless the works receive as much supervision as regularly constituted relief works, and it is this strict supervision that the scheme is intended to obviate. Again, the Famine Commissioner hesitates to recommend the advance of loans to zemindars upon a simple bond. Such a proposal was made by him in 1892 with a view to help the Zemindar of Punganur, and was strongly supported by the Board; but the proposal was held to be inadmissible by Government in its Order, No. 163, Revenue, dated 20th February 1892. He is, therefore, of opinion that any loans to zemindars for the purpose named should be made under the Land Improvement Loans Act; but with the experience of Kalahasti before him (*vide* G.O., No. 378, dated 28th April 1891), he is doubtful of much success. However, should any such loans be taken by zemindars, it might be possible to arrange that the work should be carried out as famine works, in return for the free loan of the services of professional men to supervise the works.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—Mis. No. 1271, Revenue, dated 8th July 1897.

The Board is requested to return the papers forwarded to it for consideration with G.O., No. 1232, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

READ—G.O., No. 754, Local and Municipal, dated 15th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the President, District Board, Anantapur, No. 27, dated 4th July 1897, forwarding copy of Resolution, dated 26th June 1897, stating that there are no funds to undertake and control village relief works on the lines indicated in the North-Western Provinces rules by means of small advances to ryots for petty village works.

READ—G.O., No. 828, Local and Municipal, dated 3rd August 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring to the Revenue Department letter from the President, District Board, Bellary, Dis. No. 386, dated 23rd July 1897, submitting Resolution of the District Board, Bellary, expressing its views in regard to the rules for the undertaking and control of village relief works as desired in G.O., Mis. No. 956 L., dated 19th May 1897.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 556, dated August 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Returning to Government, Revenue Department, certain enclosures as requested.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 556, dated 9th August 1897:—

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 4661, dated 29th June 1897.

Read—also G.O., No. 1232, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897.

Resolution—No. 556, dated 9th August 1897.

The Famine Commissioner begs to return, with his remarks, the replies of the Presidents of the District Boards of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Kurnool to G.O., No. 231, Revenue, dated 1st April 1897.

2. These bodies are not concerned with irrigation projects, and the only portion of the rules which is likely to affect them is that which relates to the construction and repair of sources to supply drinking water and the carrying out of sanitary schemes. The Kurnool Board is prepared to work on the lines indicated. The President of the Vizagapatam District Board appears to consider that the proposed loans are to be made by the District Board, but remarks that his Board has no money for such a purpose, and that if he is to introduce the system, a special grant must be made by Government. The President of the District Board, Ganjam, is doubtful if the scheme is practicable, unless power is given to the Board to execute the works through village headmen, or by piece-work without the necessity for detailed vouchers of sums paid to each individual workman.

3. Two things stand out clearly—first, that the number of persons likely to accept loans under the scheme is extremely limited, and second, that there is considerable risk of the very classes, to whom the works are intended to give employment, not being employed at all. The works will be small, isolated and difficult of efficient supervision.

4. The District Boards of the affected districts are believed to be wholly impoverished; if not so already, every available asset will presumably be taken from them when the time comes to settle the cost of the relief operations. It therefore appears to the Famine Commissioner that such loans, if made at all, would be better made direct by Government, instead of through the medium of the District Boards. Small allotments may be placed with each Collector for the purpose; he will be able to obtain easily any information he may require from the Sanitary Department of his Board. At the same time, any Local Funds, that may happen to be available for the purpose, may be utilised in the same way.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 722, Revenue, dated 26th August 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Famine Commissioner and the District Boards consulted by the Local and Municipal Department have misunderstood the object of Government in referring the North-Western Provinces rules to them for report. The Government did not intend to enquire if the rules framed

given in distressed villages by making petty advances to villagers for small village works.

2. It is clear from the papers read above that nothing in this direction can be done by Municipalities or Local Boards, and that this form of relief should be undertaken solely by Government. It is also obvious that the extent to which relief can be given in this form is very limited in this Presidency, though there are exceptional cases in which advances of the kind can advantageously be made in times of distress and will be gladly availed of. There are in every district a number of large ryots (Ekaboghamdars) and of owners of whole inam villages who might be willing to take such advances. Further, though a village head or a single ryot of a village may not be willing to make himself responsible for the partial repayment of a loan on account of a village improvement, there are possibly places in which all the chief ryots may combine and be willing to make themselves jointly and severally responsible; the Government believes that such combinations are usual in hill villages as in Bhadrachalam, where, according to a recent report of the Collector of Gódvári, advances to the headmen for the common benefit of the villagers are repayable by the whole community.

3. Elaborate rules like those adopted for the North-Western Provinces are not required in this Presidency, where the scheme can have but a limited operation. All that is needed is to set out clearly the conditions under which the advances will be made, viz., the employment of all persons in need of relief, the payment to them of sufficient wages, the application of the whole of the loan on the work for which it is advanced and the repayment of a portion (to be specified) of it in instalments: and to authorize Collectors to make advances under the scheme on being satisfied that the above conditions will be fulfilled.

4. With these remarks the papers are forwarded to the Board of Revenue which will be requested to draw up a set of rules on the lines indicated above.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,  
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