

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 665 W

DATED 6 March 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief: Pros: Revenue Dept. Stating that the enfeebled condition of the labourers of Patte-Konda Taluk, Kurnool Dist. and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner for showing them special consideration may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary powers vested in the Collector under Section 107 of the Famine Code, Comd. to S.E. Mr. Curle.

on copy for
no 3555/97

TC
8-3-97

[P.W. 26.
8,000-80-11-98.]

Indexed.

2/2/97

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

E. Current No. 2269

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FEBRUARY. *Circle*

L.S. 2 273/97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter from Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Maddikera, 18th January 1897, No. 179 S.:—

I have the honour to state that, having carefully inspected the condition of the population of Pattikonda in regard to the prevailing high price of food-grains, I am of opinion that the opening of a relief work in the immediate neighbourhood of Pattikonda is essential. The class of labourers usually obtaining their living by assisting in agricultural operations and various forms of petty labour in village life, is in urgent need of aid. My observations show that numerous families have been for nearly two months past without labour sufficiently regular or remunerative to provide a sufficiency of food. Thus, whilst it is true that labour is not entirely absent, it is also true that it can only be obtained fitfully, and, in consequence, many families are living upon less than half their normal amount of food. This morning, after my inspection and after explaining to the people the nature of the Government famine wage, I invited those that were willing to work to assemble near my camp. Within three-quarters of an hour, 240 persons assembled and professed their eagerness to undertake work. This may be accepted simply as a sample of what the demand may be, not of its limit. Of those assembled, I found the following results:—

Health conditions of persons seeking employment on relief works, Pattikonda.

	Men.						Women.						Children.					
	Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Malas ..	4	44.4	5	55.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madigas ..	13	54.2	11	45.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Muhammadians ..	9	37.5	10	41.7	5	20.8	20	43.5	16	34.8	10	21.7	12	92.3	1	7.7	..	..
Bovas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	16.7	7	58.3	3	25.0	10	47.6	11	52.4	..	..
Oobravas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	15.4	6	46.2	5	38.4	16	59.3	11	40.7	..	..
Kuruvas ..	11	50.0	8	36.4	3	13.6	4	25.0	8	50.0	4	25.0	5	38.5	8	61.5	..	..
Total ..	37	46.8	34	43.1	8	10.1	28	32.2	37	42.5	22	25.3	43	58.1	31	41.9	..	..

2. It will be observed that the effects of deprivation differ greatly according to castes—the Mala woman being singularly free. I may add, for your information, that the state of the children presents a strong contrast with that found in the Bellary district, which I have just inspected—inimical influence on children being there rarely found. Taking into consideration the condition of the labourer as shown above, I would advise that B rates be offered, and that, until their strength be regained, I task given be as light as is consistent with reason, and the distances from the town be as little as possible.

3. A further class would also seem to require aid urgently, namely, the cotton cloth weavers. I attach list for your information of the state of families specially visited. It will here be seen that, whilst work has not entirely ceased, it is conducted fitfully, and, under great difficulties. My enquiries go to show that the following rates are usual in this village:—

Reeling on to spindle 4lb. cotton ...	...	...	one woman, one day.
Making warp—arranging on frame 2 lb. thread ...	...	...	one woman, one day.
arranging warp ...	...	...	one woman, half a day.
Making woof thread reels 2 lb. thread—reeling ...	...	...	one-fourth day, one woman, say, one boy's wage.
Weaving one woman's cloth 16 cubits ...	...	...	one man, one and a half days.

This would give at 15 seers per rupee B class (for I think, undoubtedly, as skilled labourers, all weavers are entitled to this class) about 6 annas per woman's ordinary coloured cloth. These accord closely with the Adóni rates. The rates offered in this district are, I believe, not so favourable; but it may be taken as a fact that the sum mentioned would be the least that would be appropriate. On my suggesting these rates, the weavers gladly assented to their acceptance. This matter is of course within your discretion, and I merely mention it lest it be found that, on offering the Kurnool rates, the people do not accept them and their safety be thus retarded.

4. My inspection of the neighbouring village of Hosur also shows that the necessity for the opening of relief works is very pressing; a very large proportion of the total population of this village may be expected to eagerly accept the famine wage.

5. My inspection of Maddikera shows that the remarks made by me, as to Pattikonda apply with equal force to this town. The people are in absolute need of food, and the poorer classes show undoubted signs of privation. Some mistake seems to have occurred as to the willingness of the weavers here to accept aid; they maintain they have looked for it eagerly, and have not, as I was informed by a subordinate official, generally refused aid. I understand that to-morrow a relief work will be opened at Maddikera. I suggest your taking the case of the weavers into consideration as early as possible.

No. T./4.

True copy forwarded to Government for information (through the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

MALLUGALA,
27th January 1897.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commr. for Madras.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Results of personal inspection of the families of weavers at Pattikonda, in reference to existence of work.

Anganajar.—Used to employ coolies; has closed four looms out of six. He has to support six children and three adults. Work intermittent.

Kandanar.—Up to four months ago, worked regularly with coolies four looms. Now two employed. Has difficulty in selling for Rs. 1-4-0 what he formerly could have disposed of without difficulty for Rs. 1-14-0. He has to support four adults and twelve children.

Nagapah.—Had formerly six looms at work. Now no work. Has taken to selling salt-fish in the villages round Pattikonda. He has to support eight adults and four children.

Madou Bugganah.—Has two looms; now no work. He has to support three adults and three children.

Papanah.—Worked with the aid of coolies eight looms formerly—now three are at work.

Intchmah.—Of two looms, one is in work. He has to support four adults and three children.

Gunnappah Nagapah.—Formerly had two looms at work; now none.

Ramanah Boyapah.—Has three looms—all stopped work. Has to support three adults and four children. No work for three months.

Bremanah.—Has three looms—all stopped work. Has three adults and two children to support.

Iolur Oherlasu.—Has one loom—no work for three months; has to support three adults and four children.

Madou Seshanah.—Has four looms—two are in work. Has to support six children and two adults.

Madou Rungannah.—Has two looms—of which one is in work. Has to support six adults and one child.

Pinnacuntah Naganah.—One loom at work; has two adults to support.

Veeranah.—Three looms empty. Has three adults and four children to support.

Timmakah.—One loom; no work. Has to support two adults and four children.

Ayaipah.—Three looms—no work for two months. Has four adults and five children to support.

Tippanah.—Has one loom—no work for four months. Is going to another village to reside. Has two adults and four children to support.

Venkataramanah.—Cooly weaver. Out of work for three months.

Bhagwan.—Three looms—no work. Has to support eight adults and two children.

Marapah.—Has five looms; of these two are in work, but he asserts that he is preparing children's cloths which he is causing his young sons to weave for instruction only, and that it is impossible for him now to weave women's cloths without loss.

Ramanah.—Two looms—no work.

Hoosain Sahib.—Three looms in work—but jobs very intermittent; has to support two adults and four children.

Note.—The statement universally made by the weavers was that practically for the last two months, there has been no work forthcoming; where they weave at their own risk, it is almost impossible to sell the cloths; hence, all are living on much reduced rations, and obviously are in great straits. They would eagerly accept any rational wage that would suffice to feed them—but the officer charged with offering them relief must explain the system on which wages are paid, as they are liable not to comprehend it.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commr. for Madras.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Dis. No. 95 Eng. of 1897.

Endorsement of the Collector of Kurnool on the following telegram received from the Sanitary Commissioner on 13th January 1897.

Consider relief work near Pattikonda urgently required. Advise immediate action. Letter follows.

Copy to the Executive Engineer with the request that he will take immediate steps to open the road work from Pattikonda via Hosur to Malagoodi railway station.

Orders by wire might be sent to Mr. Taylor who, it is believed, is now at Maddikera.

KURNOOL,
13th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Dis. No. 166 Eng. of 1897.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner (Camp Pattikonda), for information, with reference to his telegram dated 13th January 1897.

KURNOOL,
18th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Resolution—dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It will be observed that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King reports that near Pattikonda, in Kurnool, many families were, at the time of his visit in January, living upon less than half their usual amount of food, and that he found that 55 per cent. of

the 240 persons who came to him as being willing to accept work at Famine Code wages were in poor or bad condition. At Maddikera, the Sanitary Commissioner found the people to be in absolute need of food and the poorer classes showing undoubted signs of privation. He considers that the people at Pattikonda will need special consideration if it is to be hoped that they can recover lost ground. This is scarcely possible to expect under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers, laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. Works have been opened at Pattikonda and Maddikera since the time of Surgn.-Lt.-Col. King's visit and most of the workers have been placed in class C. In the wage of this class, there is no margin allowed over the "equivalent to a ration sufficient to keep an able-bodied labourer in health and strength"—vide Government of India circular, No. 6-44, dated 17th March 1892.

3. So long ago as the beginning of December last—B.P., No. 411, dated 9th December 1896—the attention of the Collector was drawn to the condition of the locality under reference, and it was visited by him shortly after; but as noted in B.P., dated 25th January 1897, No. 55, no works were started till the latter half of January. The Collector will be called upon to report definitely why so much delay was allowed to occur in offering relief to the people of the locality, where the permanent Collector, about December 20th, after personal inspection, considered it to be necessary.

4. Regarding the relief to be offered to the weavers, separate orders have been issued to the Collector to draw up a scale suited to the locality, to which neither the Salem nor the Kurnool scale appears to be appropriate.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 108, Revenue, dated 19th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In paragraph 2 of his letter the Sanitary Commissioner recommends that the labourers in Pattikonda be offered B class wages and that they be given light tasks till they regain their strength; whereon the Board remarks that this is scarcely possible under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. In paragraph 1, clause 2 of this Government Order, however, it is stated that under section 107 of the Famine Code the tasks can be altered with the consent of the Collector. The enfeebled condition of the labourers and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power which the Collector possesses under the section.

2. The report called for in paragraph 3 should be submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

„ Local and Municipal Department.

„ Public Works Department.

„ Financial Department.

„ Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

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} 1897.

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P.W. 2269/97

G.O., No. 103, 19th February 1897.

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FEBRUARY.

Famine Relief.

Stating that the enfeebled condition of the labourers of the Pattikonda taluk in the Kurnool district and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner for showing them special consideration may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power vested in the Collector under section 107 of the Famine Code.

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KURNOOL, (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
13th January 1897. Collector.

Dis. No. 166 Eng. of 1897.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner (Camp Pattikonda), for information, with reference to his telegram dated 13th January 1897.

KURNOOL, (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
15th January 1897. Collector.

Resolution—dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It will be observed that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King reports that near Pattikonda, in Kurnool, many families were, at the time of his visit in January, living upon less than half their usual amount of food, and that he found that 55 per cent. of

the 240 persons who came to him as being willing to accept work at Famine Code wages were in poor or bad condition. At Maddikera, the Sanitary Commissioner found the people to be in absolute need of food and the poorer classes showing undoubted signs of privation. He considers that the people at Pattikonda will need special consideration if it is to be hoped that they can recover lost ground. This is scarcely possible to expect under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers, laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. Works have been opened at Pattikonda and Maddikera since the time of Surgn.-Lt.-Col. King's visit and most of the workers have been placed in class C. In the wage of this class, there is no margin allowed over the "equivalent to a ration sufficient to keep an able-bodied labourer in health and strength"—*vide* Government of India circular, No. 6-44, dated 17th March 1892.

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Financial Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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	Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Malas ..	4	44.4	5	55.6	..	..	20	43.5	16	34.8	10	21.7	12	92.3	1	7.7	..	..
Madigas ..	13	54.2	11	45.8	..	..	2	16.7	7	58.3	3	25.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Muhammadians ..	9	37.5	10	41.7	5	20.8	2	15.4	6	46.2	5	38.4	16	59.3	11	40.7	..	..
Bovas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	25.0	8	50.0	4	25.0	5	38.5	8	61.5	..	..
Oobravas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kuruvas ..	11	50.0	8	36.4	3	13.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	37	46.8	34	43.1	8	10.1	28	32.2	37	42.5	22	25.3	43	58.1	31	41.9	..	..

2. It will be observed that the effects of deprivation differ greatly according to castes—the Mala woman being singularly free. I may add, for your information, that the state of the children presents a strong contrast with that found in the Bellary district, which I have just inspected—inimical influence on children being there rarely found. Taking into consideration the condition of the labourer as shown above, I would advise that B rates be offered, and that, until their strength be regained, the task given be as light as is consistent with reason, and the distances from the town be as little as possible.

3. A further class would also seem to require aid urgently, namely, the cotton cloth weavers. I attach list for your information of the state of families specially visited. It will here be seen that, whilst work has not entirely ceased, it is conducted fitfully, and, under great difficulties. My enquiries go to show that the following rates are usual in this village:—

Reeling on to spindle 4lb. cotton ...	...	...	one woman, one day.
Making warp—arranging on frame 2 lb. thread ...	...	...	one woman, one day.
arranging warp ...	...	...	one woman, half a day.
Making woof thread reels 2 lb. thread—reeling ...	...	...	one-fourth day, one woman, say, one boy's wage.
Weaving one woman's cloth 16 cubits ...	...	...	one man, one and a half days.

This would give at 15 seers per rupee B class (for I think, undoubtedly, as skilled labourers, all weavers are entitled to this class) about 6 annas per woman's ordinary coloured cloth. These accord closely with the Adóni rates. The rates offered in this district are, I believe, not so favourable; but it may be taken as a fact that the sum mentioned would be the least that would be appropriate. On my suggesting these rates, the weavers gladly assented to their acceptance. This matter is of course within your discretion, and I merely mention it lest it be found that, on offering the Kurnool rates, the people do not accept them and their safety be thus retarded.

4. My inspection of the neighbouring village of Hosur also shows that the necessity for the opening of relief works is very pressing; a very large proportion of the total population of this village may be expected to eagerly accept the famine wage.

5. My inspection of Maddikera shows that the remarks made by me as to Pattikonda apply with equal force to this town. The people are in absolute need of food, and the poorer classes show undoubted signs of privation. Some mistake seems to have occurred as to the willingness of the weavers here to accept aid; they maintain they have looked for it eagerly, and have not, as I was informed by a subordinate official, generally refused aid. I understand that to-morrow a relief work will be opened at Maddikera. I suggest your taking the case of the weavers into consideration as early as possible.

No. T./4.

True copy forwarded to Government for information (through the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commr. for Madras.
MALLUGALA,
27th January 1897.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Results of personal inspection of the families of weavers at Pattikonda, in reference to existence of work.

Anganajar.—Used to employ coolies; has closed four looms out of six. He has to support six children and three adults. Work intermittent.

Kandanar.—Up to four months ago, worked regularly with coolies four looms. Now two employed. Has difficulty in selling for Rs. 1-4-0 what he formerly could have disposed of without difficulty for Rs. 1-14-0. He has to support four adults and twelve children.

Nagapah.—Had formerly six looms at work. Now no work. Has taken to selling salt-fish in the villages round Pattikonda. He has to support eight adults and four children.

Madou Bugganah.—Has two looms; now no work. He has to support three adults and three children.

Papanah.—Worked with the aid of coolies eight looms formerly—now three are at work.

Lutchmah.—Of two looms, one is in work. He has to support four adults and three children.

Gunnahapah.—Formerly had two looms at work; now none.

Ramanah Boyapah.—Has three looms—all stopped work. Has to support three adults and four children. No work for three months.

Beemanah.—Has three looms—all stopped work. Has three adults and two children to support.

Polur Oberlasu.—Has one loom—no work for three months; has to support three adults and four children.

Madou Seshanah.—Has four looms—two are in work. Has to support six children and two adults.

Madou Rungannah.—Has two looms—of which one is in work. Has to support six adults and one child.

Pinnacuntah Naganah.—One loom at work; has two adults to support.

Veeranah.—Three looms empty. Has three adults and four children to support.

Timmakah.—One loom; no work. Has to support two adults and four children.

Ayaipah.—Three looms—no work for two months. Has four adults and five children to support.

Tippanah.—Has one loom—no work for four months. Is going to another village to reside. Has two adults and four children to support.

Venkataramanah.—Cooly weaver. Out of work for three months.

Bhagwan.—Three looms—no work. Has to support eight adults and two children.

Marapah.—Has five looms; of these two are in work, but he asserts that he is preparing children's cloths which he is causing his young sons to weave for instruction only, and that it is impossible for him now to weave women's cloths without loss.

Ramanah.—Two looms—no work.

Hoosain Sahib.—Three looms in work—but jobs very intermittent; has to support two adults and four children.

Note.—The statement universally made by the weavers was that practically for the last two months, there has been no work forthcoming; where they weave at their own risk, it is almost impossible to sell the cloths; hence, all are living on much reduced rations, and obviously are in great straits. They would eagerly accept any rational wage that would suffice to feed them—but the officer charged with offering them relief must explain the system on which wages are paid, as they are liable not to comprehend it.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commr. for Madras.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Dis. No. 95 Eng. of 1897.

Endorsement of the Collector of Kurnool on the following telegram received from the Sanitary Commissioner on 13th January 1897.

Consider relief work near Pattikonda urgently required. Advise immediate action. Letter follows.

Copy to the Executive Engineer with the request that he will take immediate steps to open the road work from Pattikonda *via* Hosur to Malagoodi railway station.

Orders by wire might be sent to Mr. Taylor who, it is believed, is now at Maddikera.

KURNOOL, 13th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Dis. No. 166 Eng. of 1897.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner (Camp Pattikonda), for information, with reference to his telegram dated 13th January 1897.

KURNOOL, 18th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Resolution—dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It will be observed that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King reports that near Pattikonda, in Kurnool, many families were, at the time of his visit in January, living upon less than half their usual amount of food, and that he found that 55 per cent. of

the 240 persons who came to him as being willing to accept work at Famine Code wages were in poor or bad condition. At Maddikera, the Sanitary Commissioner found the people to be in absolute need of food and the poorer classes showing undoubted signs of privation. He considers that the people at Pattikonda will need special consideration if it is to be hoped that they can recover lost ground. This is scarcely possible to expect under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers, laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. Works have been opened at Pattikonda and Maddikera since the time of Surgn.-Lt.-Col. King's visit and most of the workers have been placed in class C. In the wage of this class, there is no margin allowed over the "equivalent to a ration sufficient to keep an able-bodied labourer in health and strength"—*vide* Government of India circular, No. 6-44, dated 17th March 1892.

3. So long ago as the beginning of December last—B.P., No. 411, dated 9th December 1896—the attention of the Collector was drawn to the condition of the locality under reference, and it was visited by him shortly after; but as noted in B.P., dated 25th January 1897, No. 55, no works were started till the latter half of January. The Collector will be called upon to report definitely why so much delay was allowed to occur in offering relief to the people of the locality, where the permanent Collector, about December 20th, after personal inspection, considered it to be necessary.

4. Regarding the relief to be offered to the weavers, separate orders have been issued to the Collector to draw up a scale suited to the locality, to which neither the Salem nor the Kurnool scale appears to be appropriate.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 108, Revenue, dated 19th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In paragraph 2 of his letter the Sanitary Commissioner recommends that the labourers in Pattikonda be offered B class wages and that they be given light tasks till they regain their strength; whereon the Board remarks that this is scarcely possible under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. In paragraph 1, clause 2 of this Government Order, however, it is stated that under section 107 of the Famine Code the tasks can be altered with the consent of the Collector. The enfeebled condition of the labourers and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power which the Collector possesses under the section.

2. The report called for in paragraph 3 should be submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

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

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

" Local and Municipal Department.

" Public Works Department.

" Financial Department.

" Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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} 1897.

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G.O., No. 108, 19th February 1897.

FEBRUARY.

Famine Relief.

Stating that the enfeebled condition of the labourers of the Pattikonda taluk in the Kurnool district and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner for showing them special consideration may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power vested in the Collector under section 107 of the Famine Code.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter from Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Maddikera, 18th January 1897, No. 179 S. :—

I have the honour to state that, having carefully inspected the condition of the population of Pattikonda in regard to the prevailing high price of food-grains, I am of opinion that the opening of a relief work in the immediate neighbourhood of Pattikonda is essential. The class of labourers usually obtaining their living by assisting in agricultural operations and various forms of petty labour in village life, is in urgent need of aid. My observations show that numerous families have been for nearly two months past without labour sufficiently regular or remunerative to provide a sufficiency of food. Thus, whilst it is true that labour is not entirely absent, it is also true that it can only be obtained fitfully, and, in consequence, many families are living upon less than half their normal amount of food. This morning, after my inspection and after explaining to the people the nature of the Government famine wage, I invited those that were willing to work to assemble near my camp. Within three-quarters of an hour, 240 persons assembled and professed their eagerness to undertake work. This may be accepted simply as a sample of what the demand may be, not of its limit. Of those assembled, I found the following results :—

Health conditions of persons seeking employment on relief works, Pattikonda.

	Men.						Women.						Children.					
	Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.		Good.		Poor.		Bad.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
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2. It will be observed that the effects of deprivation differ greatly according to castes—the Mala woman being singularly free. I may add, for your information, that the state of the children presents a strong contrast with that found in the Bellary district, which I have just inspected—inimical influence on children being there rarely found. Taking into consideration the condition of the labourer as shown above, I would advise that B rates be offered, and that, until their strength be regained, the task given be as light as is consistent with reason, and the distances from the town be as little as possible.

3. A further class would also seem to require aid urgently, namely, the cotton cloth weavers. I attach list for your information of the state of families specially visited. It will here be seen that, whilst work has not entirely ceased, it is conducted fitfully, and, under great difficulties. My enquiries go to show that the following rates are usual in this village :—

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arranging warp ...	...	...	one woman, half a day.
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Weaving one woman's cloth 16 cubits ...	...	...	one man, one and a half days.

This would give at 15 seers per rupee B class (for I think, undoubtedly, as skilled labourers, all weavers are entitled to this class) about 6 annas per woman's ordinary coloured cloth. These accord closely with the Adóni rates. The rates offered in this district are, I believe, not so favourable; but it may be taken as a fact that the sum mentioned would be the least that would be appropriate. On my suggesting these rates, the weavers gladly assented to their acceptance. This matter is of course within your discretion, and I merely mention it lest it be found that, on offering the Kurnool rates, the people do not accept them and their safety be thus retarded.

4. My inspection of the neighbouring village of Hosur also shows that the necessity for the opening of relief works is very pressing; a very large proportion of the total population of this village may be expected to eagerly accept the famine wage.

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No. T./4.

True copy forwarded to Government for information (through the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

MALLUGALA,
27th January 1897.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commr. for Madras.

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Sanitary Commr. for Madras.

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Orders by wire might be sent to Mr. Taylor who, it is believed, is now at Maddikera.

KURNOOL, 13th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Dis. No. 166 Eng. of 1897.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner (Camp Pattikonda), for information, with reference to his telegram dated 13th January 1897.

KURNOOL, 18th January 1897. (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

Resolution—dated 5th February 1897, No. 100.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It will be observed that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King reports that near Pattikonda, in Kurnool, many families were, at the time of his visit in January, living upon less than half their usual amount of food, and that he found that 55 per cent. of

the 240 persons who came to him as being willing to accept work at Famine Code wages were in poor or bad condition. At Maddikera, the Sanitary Commissioner found the people to be in absolute need of food and the poorer classes showing undoubted signs of privation. He considers that the people at Pattikonda will need special consideration if it is to be hoped that they can recover lost ground. This is scarcely possible to expect under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers, laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. Works have been opened at Pattikonda and Maddikera since the time of Surgn.-Lt.-Col. King's visit and most of the workers have been placed in class C. In the wage of this class, there is no margin allowed over the "equivalent to a ration sufficient to keep an able-bodied labourer in health and strength"—*vide* Government of India circular, No. 6-44, dated 17th March 1892.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 108, Revenue, dated 19th February 1897.

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In paragraph 2 of his letter the Sanitary Commissioner recommends that the labourers in Pattikonda be offered B class wages and that they be given light tasks till they regain their strength; whereon the Board remarks that this is scarcely possible under the system for adapting tasks to the capacity of the workers laid down in G.O., No. 43, Revenue, dated 26th January 1897. In paragraph 1, clause 2 of this Government Order, however, it is stated that under section 107 of the Famine Code the tasks can be altered with the consent of the Collector. The enfeebled condition of the labourers and the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner may be circumstances justifying the temporary exercise of the discretionary power which the Collector possesses under the section.

2. The report called for in paragraph 3 should be submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

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

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

„ Local and Municipal Department.

„ Public Works Department.

„ Financial Department.

„ Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

70 Copies.