

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 954 W

DATED 3. April 1897

one copy for
no 3555/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Minimum wage; Pro: Revenue Dept recording
Boards Pro. Submitting letter from the Collector
of Raichur reporting on the effect of taking four
fifths nagi and one-fifth paddy as the basis of
—, Comd to G.O. 7

with remarks

5-4
574/97

BACK PAPERS.

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Current No: 3225

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd. 30.3. } 1897.
Regd. 30.3. }

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 127, 25th February 1897.

Communicated

to Subtg. Engineers in

FEBRUARY. continuation of \$0.
589 waf 2 Mar 1897 and
\$0.836 waf 23 Mar 97-

S. Es.

C.B. 83 1/2 2/4/97

Famine wage.

Board's Proceedings submitting letter from the Collector of Ganjam reporting on the effect of taking four-fifths ragi and one-fifth *paddy* as the basis of —, recorded with remarks.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th February 1897, No. 139 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Ganjām, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 9th February 1897, R. C. No. 359-F. :—

Referring to paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 59, dated 25th January 1897, and paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 67, dated 26th January 1897, I have the honour to report as follows as to the effect of taking paddy, or four-fifths ragi and one-fifth paddy as the basis of a famine wage. I will take the case of the minimum wage of 70 tolas for males.

2. As the Board is aware, paddy loses one-third of its weight in being converted into cleaned rice. The 16 oz. of rice, therefore, included in the minimum wage represent 24 oz. or 60 tolas of paddy; if this be deducted from 70 tolas of paddy, the minimum wage, then only the price of 10 tolas of paddy is left to buy the other articles mentioned in section 120 of the Famine Code.

3. The price of paddy is not, I fear, very accurately reported in this district; it

N. B.—Stringent orders about the accurate reporting of price of paddy in seers of 80 tolas have been issued.

price of paddy as 15 seers of 80 tolas for the rupee. The husk is allowed as remuneration for the husking work. If paddy sells at 15 seers the rupee, i.e., 1,200 tolas for 1 Re. then 10 tolas of paddy is worth $\frac{1}{12} \times 10$ annas = $\frac{1}{12}$ annas or $\frac{1}{12}$ pies or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies.

4. If paddy and ragi be taken as the basis, then the total wage = $\frac{1}{5} \times 70$ tolas ragi + $\frac{1}{5} \times 70$ tolas paddy = 56 tolas ragi + 14 tolas paddy. But this wage includes $\frac{1}{5} \times 16$ oz. ragi flour + $\frac{1}{5} \times 16$ oz. rice = 32 tolas ragi flour + 8 tolas rice.

Now, ragi loses one-fifth of its weight when converted into flour, and paddy one-third of its weight when converted into rice. Converting, therefore, the flour and rice into ragi and paddy, it equals 40 tolas of ragi + 12 tolas paddy; if this is subtracted from the total wage, the remainder is 16 tolas of ragi + 2 tolas paddy. Ragi sells here just now at 13 seers for the rupee, i.e., 1,040 tolas for 16 annas or 65 tolas for 1 anna. So 16 tolas of ragi are worth $\frac{1}{65}$ anna or 3 pies nearly.

The value of 2 tolas of paddy is = $\frac{6}{25}$ pie. The money value of the portion of wage left for buying the other articles mentioned in section 120 is nearly $3\frac{6}{25}$ pies.

(1) Pulse or Dhol	1½ pies per oz.
(2) Salt	1 pie do.
(3) Ghee	6 pies do.
(4) Oil	8 do.
(5) Vegetables	1 pie do.
At these prices—	
2 oz. pulse costs	3 pies.
33 oz. salt	½ pie.
33 „ ghee	2 pies.
50 „ vegetables costs	½ pie.
Total	5½ pies.

5. I give in the margin the price at which these articles are being at present sold in the Chatrapur bazaar; if wages are calculated on a paddy basis—it leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies to meet this, and if calculated on four-fifth ragi and one-fifth rice, it leaves $3\frac{6}{25}$ pies for the purpose.

Resolution—dated 17th February 1897, No. 139.

Submitted for the consideration of Government, with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 59 of 1897.

2. The calculations made by the Collector regarding the loss of weight in converting ragi into flour require modification in reference to the data recorded in G.O., No. 357, Revenue, dated 1st May 1893, from which an allowance of 10 per cent. was shown to be sufficient. Making this allowance, the cost of the maximum and minimum grain rations, at the market prices quoted by the Collector, would be—

	Paddy ½ pie.	Ragi ½ pie.	Total.	Value of full grain equivalent.	Margin available pies.	Remarks.
Maximum 24 oz. rice or flour	1	2.9	9.8	12.7	18.9	1 for a man.
	2	2.4	8.2	10.6	17.0	2 for a woman.
	1	1.9	6.6	8.5	12.5	
Minimum 16 oz. rice or flour	2	1.7	5.7	7.4	11.6	

The margin would, in neither case, suffice to cover the cost of the "other items" included in the ration, still less to provide for the purchase of fuel. The cost of these other items, at the rates given by the Collector, would be for a man—maximum 13.5 pies, minimum 5½ pies. The case of the B or C class worker cannot be clearly demonstrated owing to the absence of any information as to the amounts of the "other items" allowed in the rations for these classes in determining the grain equivalent.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ the Collector of Ganjām.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Collector of Vizagapatam.

ORDER—No. 127, Revenue, dated 25th February 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded with reference to G.O.,
No. 98, dated 16th February 1897.

2. It would seem from the figures in the statement at paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings that the margin available, even when wages are calculated on the basis of rice and ragi, will be insufficient to procure the "other items" mentioned. If this is really the case, the Collector may be authorized to calculate wages on the money value of each item of the ration (clause 4 of section 120). The Government, however, fears that the cost of these items given in paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter and adopted by the Board is calculated at unduly high rates.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.