Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1905 W

DATED 23rd July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Supervision of Chains Relief works.

Proc: Revenue Dept Courts with remarks of the Famine Commissioner letter from the S.E.I Circle regarding the impossibility of providing P.W. Subordinates for — which are being offered by the Collector of Kanjam Court to the S.E.I Circle.

[P.W. 25. 5,000—20-11-96.]

Indexed.

Public works (1897) Department
Current Number: 6748

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 12.7. } 1897.
Regd. 12.7. }

Enclosures

Spare copies 16

G.O., No. 485, 23rd June 1897.

No. 1905 W 23-7-97

Communicate to the S.E. I circle. 1/ 17/7/97

Cr

circs. 14-7-97.

S.S. I circle vide 5-8

Copy to S.S. III circle vide 5-8

24/7/97

JUNE.

Public Works Subordinates.

Communicating, with remarks, to the Famine Commissioner letter from the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, regarding the impossibility of providing — for supervision of chains of famine-relief works which are being opened by the Collector of Ganjám.

OLS 288 19/7

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from W. De'MORGAN, Esq., M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, Ganjám 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 of the Superintending Engineer, dated 5th June 1897, No. 231-G. N.

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 Ganjám 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 Ganjám, 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 Ganjám.

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

Referred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

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

Miscellaneous.

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.)

C. H. B. Buckley

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

× C.M. 6520 Border in C. Section 27

To the Famine Commissioner.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.

Public Works Department.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. — 1897.
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G.O., No. 485, 23rd June 1897.

No 1985 WS 23.7.97
Communicated to the
S.E. I circle.
H.G.J. D.R.C.
M

JUNE.

To
The S.E. I circle
-Copy to S.E. III. Circle.

Public Works Subordinates.

Communicating, with remarks, to the Famine Commissioner letter from the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, regarding the impossibility of providing — for supervision of chains of famine-relief works which are being opened by the Collector of Ganjám.

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

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