

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 2146 W

DATED ^c August 9

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief workers. Proo. Revenue Dept.,
Communicating to the Hamme Commissioner
letter from the Govt of I forwarding for information
a Circular issued by the Govt. of the N. W.
Provinces and Oudh on the subject of
making provision where necessary for —
as soon as the rains set in, Comtd to
the Supty Engrs. I and III circles —

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

P. W. Department
Madras. No 7621
Ad 27-7-97

Enclosures -

Spare copies 14

G.O., No. 597, 20th July 1897.

No 2146 W 86.8.97

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Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer,
to the Supt. Engineers,
I & III Circles.
IV & III Binsles.

JULY.

29/2/87

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To

10 The Bapt. Cong. I Circle # 386
 11 The Swiss Am. I Circle
 12 Bapt. Cong. III Circle 116
 13 Swiss Am. III Circle 17

Communicating to the Famine Commissioner letter from the Government of India forwarding for information a Circular issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh on the subject of making provision wherever necessary for relief workers as soon as the rains set in.

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No. 597, 20TH JULY 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 8th July 1897, No. 22-F.-172-2.

I am directed to forward for the information of the Governor in Council a copy of a Circular No. 1208-S-131, dated the 27th May 1897, issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to all Commissioners of Divisions in the United Provinces on the subject of making provision wherever necessary for relief workers as soon as the rains set in.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Secretary to Government, N.-W. Provinces and Oudh, to all Commissioners of Divisions, N.-W. Provinces and Oudh (except Meerut and Kumaun Divisions), No. 1208-S-131 of 1897, dated Naini Tal, the 27th May 1897.

I am directed to address you on the subject of making provision wherever necessary for relief workers as soon as the rains set in.

2. In all districts where distress is not severe it may be expected that the workers will return to their homes as soon as the advent of the rains re-opens field work and renews the demand for agricultural labour. In these cases the question will settle itself. But in the region of acute distress it is possible that a proportion of the workers may remain, and that it may be necessary to find employment for them. Works now in progress, which consist almost exclusively of earthwork on roads and tanks, will usually become impracticable in the rainy season, and where employment is required some other sort of work will have to be devised. In the Allahabad district, for instance, quarrying, breaking and stacking road metal has been projected and appears suitable. You are requested to consider and report for each district either declared distressed or under observation whether, in the first place, any relief workers are likely to require employment after the opening of the rains. The grounds of the opinion should be stated, and an estimate given of the probable numbers, if any. Should it be necessary to provide work, the character and locality of the suitable projects should be decided and stated. Before forming your conclusions you should consult District Officers and officials of the Public Works Department, and their views, if divergent from your own, should be noted. You should also have regard to the remarks made in paragraph 12 of the Resolution, No. 3945S, dated 20th October 1896, recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor on the relief operations in Bundelkhand last year, and published in the Government Gazette of the 24th October 1896.

3. A few general principles may here be indicated which the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner would wish to see observed.

No inducement should be offered to persons to remain on relief works. On the contrary, they should be encouraged and assisted to return to their homes and engage in the preparations for the *kharif* harvest, on which everything will now depend.

To this end it may be desirable to increase tasks and stiffen rates when the rains are imminent, in order to weed out those who are not dependant on relief works for their absolute subsistence.

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In cases where, as in South Allahabad, the system of numerous small village works giving employment to labourers at their own homes is likely to retain on relief works persons who could be employed on field labour, the system must be entirely and promptly abandoned. The circumstances which called that system into existence, viz., scarcity of water and the consequent liability of large masses of workers to cholera, will have been altogether changed when the rains break. Accordingly labourers for whom relief work has to be found should be again concentrated on large works whereby a distance and residence test can be imposed.

Where the number seeking employment is inconsiderable, works should be closed and any residuum which may remain should be received in poorhouses, where employment of a suitable nature should be provided and a labour task strictly imposed. In special cases village relief can be expanded for a limited time.

It is believed that with the assistance they have already received from Government and the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund the vast mass of the people now on works will be able to put out their *kharif* crops and support themselves, till the early grain is ready, from their own resources, aided by their zamindars and the traders who usually finance them. Cases of difficulty can be met by *tagavi* advances or by a careful and limited extension of village relief.

A great deal will depend on the movement of prices. If these relax substantially, it will be possible to exercise a much freer hand in reducing all forms of relief.

4. Your reply to the questions raised in paragraph 2 should reach this office not later than 20th June. His Honor will, if necessary, confer with yourself and the divisional staff on the subject early in July.

No. 1209
S.—131.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to this Government, Public Works Department, for information.

By order, &c.,

H. N. WRIGHT,
Under Secy. to Govt., N.-W. P. and Oudh.

ORDER—No. 597, dated 20th July 1897.

Communicated to the Famine Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To

The Famine Commissioner.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Public Works Department

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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No 2146 W 86.8.97
Communicated to the
S. & I and III Circles.

JULY.

for D. H. C.
17

To
The S. & I Circle,
" S. & III Circle.

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Where the number seeking employment is inconsiderable, works should be closed and any residuum which may remain should be received in poorhouses, where employment of a suitable nature should be provided and a labour task strictly imposed. In special cases village relief can be expanded for a limited time.

It is believed that with the assistance they have already received from Government and the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund the vast mass of the people now on works will be able to put out their *khari* crops and support themselves, till the early grain is ready, from their own resources, aided by their zamindars and the traders who usually finance them. Cases of difficulty can be met by *taqavi* advances or by a careful and limited extension of village relief.

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for D. H. C.
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