

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1079 W

DATED 29 April 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief Works, Res. Revenue Dept
requesting the Collector of Nellore to inquire into the
situation and report on the condition of the ^{people} ~~portion~~
in the portion of the Kalahasti Zemindari situate
in his district in view to arrangements being made
to provide relief for them if necessary, Comd.
G.S. Clerk.

29 April 98

Indexed.

Recd. 2574	} 1898.	Enclosures
Regd. 27.4.		Spare copies 20

April 1898.
B K-679629. 4.58

APRIL.

RS.

2. 11. 50

S. Eng Circle into 5 files

29/4/98

Famine-relief works.

Requesting the Collector of Nellore to inquire into the situation and report upon the condition of the people in the portion of the Kálahasti zamindari situate in his district in view to arrangements being made to provide relief for them if necessary.

Oil
9.12.74

[illegible]

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 1748, dated 10th March 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated 28th February 1898, No. 698-Ver. :—

In the remarks embodied in my fortnightly narrative for the fortnight ending 15th February 1898, I gave a list of works which the Raja of Kálahasti said had been sanctioned by him for execution to relieve the poor and stated that I had asked the Raja to start the works soon especially in the Sitampuram range of his estate as works were badly wanted there. I have now the honour to enclose a translation of the Raja's reply, in which he expresses his inability to undertake the works owing to the straitened finances of the estate, which is heavily encumbered and the continued litigation in which it is engaged. The Raja in conclusion requests that the works may be started and executed at the cost of Government, the expenditure being recovered afterwards from the estate. Until the litigation in connection with the succession to the estate is finally disposed of, such a course would, I imagine, not be advisable.

ENCLOSURE.

Translation of the khat No. 2, dated 3rd February 1898, from the Raja of Kálahasti, to the Collector of Nellore.

Your khat No. 163, dated 22nd January 1898, has been received. We would, as required in your khat, be very happy to start the repairs of tanks for the relief of the poor. But this estate is heavily encumbered to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs. During the current year there has been a deficiency of rainfall and consequent failure of crops in all our three taluks. This resulted in our having had to borrow again to meet the first kist of our peshkash. For payment of the peshkash for the second and third kists the tenants refuse to pay up their rents owing to distress. There is an appeal case pending in the High Court against us as to the succession to the estate. Until this appeal is decided, it will be difficult for us to raise any further loans. For the above reasons we regret very much to say that it is not possible for us to start any works on behalf of the estate.

The Honourable Government is ready to undertake relief of the poor during such famine. We therefore request that orders may be issued to start as relief works in such of the villages of the Pamur taluk of our estate as require relief, the repairs of the zamindari tanks subject to the amounts so spent being recovered from us later on in favourable years.

Resolution—Mis. No. 1748, dated 10th March 1898.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. There were similar difficulties with this estate in 1891. During the past year, relief operations were undertaken in the proprietary estates of the Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts at the cost of the State. The same course may be followed now.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of translation.

Copy to the Collector of Nellore.

ORDER—No. 189, Revenue, dated 1st April 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Government considers that in general there is no reason why the State should carry out, with famine labour, works for the benefit of a private proprietor, unless he is prepared to pay for them. The Zamindar of Kálahasti admits that he cannot now reimburse Government for any outlay it may incur in the execution of the works which he proposes should be undertaken on his estate, and that he can hold out no definite prospect of being able to do so in the near future. His request in this matter cannot therefore be acceded to. At the same time the Government recognises that, in his present circumstances, the Zamindar is not in a position to undertake to provide any substantial relief for the villagers on his property and that, if such measures are required, Government must itself make the necessary arrangements. The Collector of Nellore will accordingly inquire carefully into the situation and report fully upon the condition of the people in the portion of the zamindari in his district. To this end he may divide the zamindari into circles and appoint circle officers to report upon the real state of affairs. If he then considers that it is essential to inaugurate relief measures, and if the works already opened or about to be opened in the district, are inconvenient for the purpose, he may select within the zamindari works which are likely to be of public utility, such as roads, wells, conservancy works and the like if any of sufficient magnitude can be found. If, however, this cannot be done, those in need of relief should be drafted to the district works already referred to.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

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

Ezd. Shaik Karim.

75 Copies.