

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1405 W

DATED 4 June 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Economic Condition of the Murre &c.

Pro: Rev. Deptt. Statist. with remarks, that
the report on the general — will be forwarded to
the forgrd. & requesting the B^d of Revenue to
furnish Govt. with its views on the suggestion
of the forgrd. to place more reliance, during
the earlier stages of famine, on relief in the form
of cooked food as a means of lessening distress, commu-
nicated to the Suptg. Engr. & Engrs.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Enclosures

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B No. 1405 W 24628
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APRIL.

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Economic condition of the Nellore District.

Stating, with remarks, that the report on the general — will be forwarded to the Government of India for information and requesting the Board of Revenue to furnish Government with its views on the suggestion of the Government of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of famine, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or pressure of distress.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, No. 205, dated 1st March 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Revenue Department letter from the Government of India stating, with remarks, that a provision of Rs. 8,50,000 will be made in the budget estimates for 1898-99 for famine expenditure; and requesting to be furnished with a general report in accordance with rule X, article 48 of the Famine Code.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 101, dated 2nd March 1898.

Resolution—No. 101, dated 2nd March 1898.

With reference to Rule X of section 48 of the Famine Code, the Board begs to submit the following report regarding the economic condition, in ordinary times, of the Nellore district of this Presidency, in which test works are now being conducted. A map is attached showing the Government taluks and zamindari divisions into which the district is divided, the main roads, towns and villages, the areas (1) permanently protected, (2) reserved for forests, (3) for which detailed information is not available, * and (4) on which the crops are always precarious.

* These are held in zamindari tenure.

2. The district lies between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Eastern Ghâts on the west, and is conterminous on the north with the Kistna and Kurnool districts and on the south with the Chingleput and North Arcot districts.

The principal rivers, by which the district is drained, traverse it from east to west; of these the chief are the Swarnamukhi, which, entering from North Arcot, falls, after a course of about 30 miles within the district, into the Bay of Bengal. It has a very rapid fall and supplies various tanks, but is dry for the greater part of the year. North of this the Kondleru, rising in the Vellakondas, crosses the district from west to east; and again further north the Pennér which, after penetrating the ghâts at Someswaram, runs in an irregular easterly course for 70 miles through the district to the sea. The latter is crossed by two anikats, one at Sangam and the other at Nellore, from which channels are taken off for direct irrigation and to supply numerous tanks. Further north the Manueru, Paléru and Musi rivers rising in the Eastern Ghâts also cross the district, and the Gundlakamma, which rises in the Nallamalas and receives the drainage of the great Cumbum tank in Kurnool, flows through the northern part of the district. The four rivers first named are alone utilized for irrigation purposes in the district, for, the beds of the others lie so far below the level of the adjoining land that it is only from wells (doruvas) sunk in them that water, baled by bullock-power, can be utilized.

The coast line is marked by a narrow band of soils of fluviatile origin, chiefly consisting of blown sands. Within this, a strip of alluvial soil formed by deposition from the rivers falling into the sea generally fills up the area, till the laterite band is reached. The alluvium also extends up the valleys which cross the district, and in that of the Pennér is of considerable width. The laterite belt gives rise to a poor soil, much of which is covered with "jungle waste" and is found in all the littoral taluks of Gudur, Nellore, Kavali, Kandukur and Ongole. The northern part of the last named taluk is covered with régada of good quality which extends more or less continuously through the two more southern taluks and is bounded on the west, by a more hilly, broken and stony country which extends into the south-western part of the district, where also large areas of jungle are to be found. In the two central taluks—Atmakur and Nellore—the alluvial beds of the Pennér valley are a marked feature and irrigation works are common. In the extreme west, the soils are poor and there is much jungle, and over the rest of the area the soils are heterogeneous.

In the southern taluks and zamindari divisions, the red soils found near the hills are stony and to a great extent covered by jungle, the area under cultivation is inconsiderable, and irrigation works are rare, but nearer the sea coast before the laterite band is reached, the soils are loams and clays of fair quality and irrigation works are common. Large tracts of heavy soil are, however, met with, which are strongly impregnated with saline matter (tehoudu). The areas within which distress is being experienced are the taluks of Atmakur, Udayagiri, Kanigiri and Kandukur and the zamindari divisions of Podili and Darsi. The extent and population of the district and of the affected areas are given in the appended statement:—

Tracts.	Area.	Population.
	SQ. MILES.	
District of Nellore	8,765	1,464,000
Affected area	3,852	533,021

3. *Rainfall.*—The average annual rainfall of the district is nearly 36 inches, an average which includes extremes such as 11 inches in 1876 and nearly 47 inches in 1887, whilst during the 24 years ending in 1893 the fall of the year has been materially below the average in four only. The driest portion of the district is that lying on the west to the north of the Pennér where the North-East monsoon rains are much lighter than in other parts of the district; next to this comes the tract lying along the coast, north of the same river where, though the South-West monsoon rains are heavier, those of the North-East monsoon are lighter than for the district as a whole, whilst over the portion of the district south of the Pennér, owing to the heavier rainfall of the North-East monsoon, the year's fall is above the district average. Particulars of normal and actual rainfall in the affected areas are given below:—

STATEMENT showing the normal rainfall and the amounts registered in 1897 in inches in the affected taluks of the Nellore district.

Taluks.	Recording stations.	Dry months.		South-West monsoon.					
		April and May.		June to August.		September.		Total.	
		Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Venkatagiri	zamin- dari.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
	Darsi	2.02	2.91	8.00	4.75	4.39	11.48	12.39	16.23
	Podili	2.24	2.85	6.41	7.88	5.79	12.85	12.20	20.73
	Atmakur	1.76	0.23	5.71	4.07	2.93	6.67	8.64	10.74
	Udayagiri	2.05	0.79	5.47	5.40	2.52	8.05	7.99	13.45
	Kanigiri	1.79	4.54	6.33	9.63	3.45	6.46	9.78	16.09
	Kandukur	1.43	0.78	7.72	7.97	4.70	11.79	12.42	19.76
Taluks.	Recording stations.	North-East monsoon.						Total, April to December.	
		October.		November.		December.		Total.	
		Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.	Normal.	1897.
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Venkatagiri	zamin- dari.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
	Darsi	5.85	1.48	4.42	0.31	1.14	..	11.41	1.79
	Podili	6.90	3.54	4.19	0.08	0.13	..	11.22	3.62
	Atmakur	8.81	2.79	8.82	1.37	2.53	0.88	20.16	5.04
	Udayagiri	8.39	2.38	7.52	0.63	2.14	0.22	13.05	3.23
	Kanigiri	6.46	0.52	4.56	..	1.10	..	12.12	0.52
	Kandukur	8.97	2.26	7.89	0.11	1.87	0.04	18.73	2.41
		INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.	INS.
	Darsi	5.85	1.48	4.42	0.31	1.14	..	11.41	1.79
	Podili	6.90	3.54	4.19	0.08	0.13	..	11.22	3.62
	Atmakur	8.81	2.79	8.82	1.37	2.53	0.88	20.16	5.04
	Udayagiri	8.39	2.38	7.52	0.63	2.14	0.22	13.05	3.23
	Kanigiri	6.46	0.52	4.56	..	1.10	..	12.12	0.52
	Kandukur	8.97	2.26	7.89	0.11	1.87	0.04	18.73	2.41

* Average for previous three years.

A glance will show that, although the actual amount of rain that fell during 1897 was, in some of the affected areas, more or less normal, it was most unseasonably distributed. The showers of April and May may be neglected. The fall between June and September was unusually heavy, but the North-East monsoon was an absolute failure, the fall being less than 20 per cent. of the normal.

4. There are two cropping seasons corresponding with the two monsoons. With the South-West monsoon rains the early or *punasa* and the chief or *pedda* crops are sown; with the North-East monsoon rains the late or *paira* crops.

In the northern taluks the crops are almost all sown with the early monsoon, whilst in the southern, almost the only *punasa* crop is varagu (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*) and there is but little of that grown. The only late crops largely grown in the northern taluks are horse-gram, Bengal-gram and variga (*Panicum miliaceum*), the latter being almost entirely confined to Ongole and Kandukur, whilst the bulk of the horse-gram is found in Kanigiri and Udayagiri. The latter crop is a very hardy one and usually follows cumbu, the greater portion of the area under which is also found in the same taluks. In the southern taluks cholam is often grown as a late crop on the same land without any intermission, but it usually receives whatever manure may still be available after the wet and garden lands have been attended to. On the whole, about 80 per cent. of the total area of crop consists of food-grains, of which paddy is an important crop only in the Nellore and Gudur taluks. The principal industrial crops are indigo, cotton and oil-seeds. The greater portion of the indigo is found in Ongole and Kandukur but the crop is raised to some extent in all parts of the district. The cotton is also to be found chiefly in the four northern taluks, but the area occupied by this crop is of importance only in Kandukur and Kanigiri. Castor is a tolerably important crop in all taluks except Gudur and Nellore, where, as well as in other southern taluks of Rapur and Atmakur, gingelly occupies some considerable area. Of the large area under condiments and spices in Ongole taluk, the principal is coriander—a crop also very extensively cultivated in the adjacent district of Kistna. There is a large extent under “miscellaneous crops” in Gudur and Ongole taluks which includes considerable areas of casuarinas in the former, and of babul trees in the latter taluk.

The acreage occupied by the chief crops in the affected areas is shown below:—

Taluks.	Rice.	Cholam.	Cumbu.	Ragi.	Varagu.	Korra.	Chama.	Others.	Bengal-gram.	Horse-gram.	Red-gram.	Green-gram.	Black-gram.	Others.	Chillies.	Tana-rind.	Others.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Atmakur	ACS. 17,025	ACS. 84,976	ACS. 3,623	ACS. 10,647	ACS. 9,224	ACS. 90	ACS. 104	ACS. 18	ACS. 352	ACS. 2,569	ACS. 45	ACS. 872	ACS. 111	ACS. 46	ACS. 1,081	ACS. 1,023	ACS. 2
Udayagiri	ACS. 1,092	ACS. 30,052	ACS. 3,796	ACS. 6,602	ACS. 8,488	ACS. 945	ACS. 102	ACS. 102	ACS. 12	ACS. 4,433	ACS. 9	ACS. 116	ACS. 1	ACS. 1	ACS. 114	ACS. 105	ACS. 21
Kanigiri	ACS. 336	ACS. 19,869	ACS. 10,829	ACS. 12,217	ACS. 8,842	ACS. 1,886	ACS. 1,062	ACS. 443	ACS. 610	ACS. 5,998	ACS. 71	ACS. 1,158	ACS. 281	ACS. 19	ACS. 182	ACS. 60	ACS. 1
Kandukur	ACS. 15,209	ACS. 77,108	ACS. 8,837	ACS. 4,100	ACS. 10,729	ACS. 1,886	ACS. 28	ACS. 12,240	ACS. 610	ACS. 12,902	ACS. 493	ACS. 2,159	ACS. 281	ACS. 33	ACS. 656	ACS. 1,318	ACS. 52

Taluka.	Cereals.										Pulses.				Condiments and spices.						
	Orchard and garden produce.										Oil-seeds.				Sugars.				Fibres.		Total area of crops.
	Vegetables including starches.	Plantains	Mangoes.	Cocoanuts.	Other fruit-trees.	Gingelly.	Castor.	Others.	Cotton.	Others.	Indigo.	Drugs and narcotics.	Fuel-trees and topes.								
Taluka.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33						
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.						
	154	57	1,470	189	302	251	7,598	5	1	2,307	..	4,748	290	1,217	141,776						
	44	..	112	2	16	45	5,610	..	4	3,289	14	2,276	284	..	61,757						
	61	..	45	..	24	134	6,326	37	8	4,033	230	1,378	118	..	68,387						
Kandukur	222	7	798	11	87	128	10,015	4	271	1,880	848	20,000	586	6,411	166,045						

5. Statistics of the actual outturn of the early crops (those harvested up to November) are alone at present available; they may be studied in the following statement:—

Crops.	Atmakúr.				Udayagiri.			
	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Food-grains.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.
Paddy	8,547	70	176	5	..	..	..	..
Cholam	44,819	231	18	6	9,712	759	48	4
Cumbu	5,581	5,460	121	6	4,831	4,745	86	7
Ragi	298	3	3	6	592	21	21	2
Varagu	12,950	..	208	..	10,573	..	302	..
All others including pulses ..	4,937	22	..	4	6,221	513	23	5
Industrial crops.								
Castor and lamp-oil seeds ..	7,214	..	32	..	4,761	..	24	..
Gingelly	9	9	..	5	5	2	3	6
Cotton	2,163	..	..	..	3,178	..	..	..
Indigo	4,200	3,373	523	5	1,244	1,211	10	7
Tabacco	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other crops including topes ..	2,524	272	..	5	380	32	1	6

Crops.	Kanigiri.				Kandukúr.			
	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.	Area sown.	Area harvested.	Area withered.	Average outturn on the remainder harvested.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Food-grains.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ANNAS.
Paddy	..	..	..	..	13,048	372	356	7
Cholam	9,816	330	328	3	13,548	3,041	942	2
Cumbu	11,831	11,439	359	5	10,709	10,420	1,188	4
Ragi	646	10	43	5	..	..	..	..
Varagu	12,883	..	4	..	13,652	3	3	..
All others including pulses ..	14,009	1,208	719	2	8,254	800	20	2
Industrial crops.								
Castor and lamp-oil seeds ..	7,627	..	..	..	11,422	39	39	..
Gingelly	199	..	..	..	69	10	..	..
Cotton	3,988	..	..	..	1,833	..	..	10
Indigo	487	488	12	7	18,179	17,535	519	7
Tobacco	11	..	..	..	68	..	..	..
Other crops including topes ..	368	61	2	6	9,166	520	3	9

6. In the subjoined statement information is given as to the number of live-stock maintained in proportion to the area cultivated:—

Taluka.	Area cultivated in fasli 1306 (Government and Minor Inam).	Number of tilling cattle.	Area tilled per pair.	Number of cattle of all sorts.		Number of sheep and goats.	
				Total.	Per 100 acres cultivated.	Total.	Per 100 acres cultivated.
Atmakúr	ACS. 141,775	22,297	ACS. 12.7	76,970	54	108,872	77
Udayagiri	61,757	7,614	16.2	31,853	52	73,675	119
Kanigiri	68,387	7,677	17.8	39,126	57	69,420	102
Kandukúr	166,045	20,259	16.4	43,972	26	78,185	47

The affected area comprises a considerable portion of the tract within which are to be found the breeding grounds of the celebrated Nellore cattle.

7. In the following table will be found particulars of the average size of holdings and the average revenue payable on each holding:—

Taluk.	Average size of holdings.			Percentage of pattadars paying				
	Area.			Assessment.	Under Rs. 10.	From Rs. 10 to 30.	From Rs. 30 to 100.	From Rs. 100 upwards.
	Dry.	Wet.	Total.					
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	RS. A. P.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Atmakúr	8.47	1.20	9.67	14 13 2	56.17	30.90	11.83	1.10
Udayagiri	8.83	0.26	9.09	8 2 6	73.24	22.41	4.20	0.15
Kanigiri	10.79	0.09	10.88	8 13 10	70.25	24.58	5.03	0.14
Kandukúr	9.20	0.88	10.08	17 1 4	49.37	35.17	13.63	1.83

The figures call for little comment. There is practically no wet land except in Atmakúr and Kandukúr. The average assessment paid is small, especially in Udayagiri and Kanigiri, more than 60 per cent. of the ryots paying but Rs. 10 or less to Government. The condition of the cultivating classes is poor.

8. *Communications and food-supplies.*—Possessed of a line of sea coast 150 miles in length, in which are situated seven ports at which supplies of grain may be landed; traversed throughout its length by the Buckingham Canal which connects the district with the Kistna and Gódvári deltas on the north and the port of Madras on the south; touched in its north-east corner by the Southern Mahratta Railway; and traversed in the south for about 83 miles by the South Indian Railway, from Renigunta on the Madras Railway, the district is fairly well provided with main channels of traffic to allow of supplies of food being thrown into it in cases of scarcity. The East Coast Railway, which will traverse the district from south to north, connecting it on the one side with the port of Madras, and in the other with the rich delta of the Kistna is nearing completion and will shortly be opened. Besides the means of supply mentioned, the district is well supplied with main roads throughout its area, and there can seldom be much difficulty in distributing the necessary supplies of food, if local stocks fail.

The course of prices.—Cholam (*Sorghum vulgare*), by far the most important of the dry food-grains, was obtainable at about the normal rate during 1896 up to the end of September. In October 1896, as the North-East monsoon showed symptoms of failure, the price rose rapidly, and, in November 1896, considerably exceeded the warning rate. It fell in the succeeding month to about the warning rate, near which it remained for about three months. In April 1897, the price again began to rise, though gradually; the scarcity rate was practically reached in September 1897, but the rise continued till the price of the grain was 15 per cent. above the scarcity rate, and 133 above the normal. Prices of other dry grains followed a more or less similar course.

STATEMENT showing the course of prices of the principal food-grains in the affected taluks of the Nellore district in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.

Taluk.	Recording stations.	Grain.	July.			August.			September.		
			1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Venkatagiri zamindari.	Darsi	Ragi	31.5	23.8	15.2	27.5	23.8	14.8	25.4	22.7	16.1
		Cholam	26.9	21.7	..	25.2	21.7	..	24.5	21.7	..
	Podili	Cumbu	24.1	19.7	11.7	52.6	19.7	11.6	21.9	18.6	13.1
		Ragi	32.5	27.2	15.7	29.1	26.0	15.0	25.7	23.9	14.5
Atmakur	Atmakur	Cholam	28.4	23.6	13.1	26.2	22.0	12.7	23.5	21.7	12.7
		Cumbu	25.9	19.7	11.8	24.1	19.4	11.5	21.6	18.3	11.5
	Atmakur	Ragi	30.9	24.7	19.1	27.3	23.7	18.3	25.5	22.9	18.3
		Cholam	26.9	24.4	17.7	25.9	22.9	16.7	25.0	21.7	16.7
Udayagiri	Udayagiri	Cumbu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Ragi	27.2	27.2	19.0	24.7	25.9	17.7	23.0	24.1	16.3
	Udayagiri	Cholam	23.9	24.4	15.4	22.6	22.9	13.0	21.3	20.6	12.7
		Cumbu	..	23.0	13.9	..	22.1	..	..	..	..
Kanigiri	Kanigiri	Ragi	31.6	27.7	17.1	26.9	28.3	17.0	23.7	25.3	17.0
		Cholam	26.9	26.4	14.8	26.9	27.1	14.0	23.5	24.9	13.6
	Kanigiri	Cumbu	24.6	21.2	12.5	23.9	21.5	12.8	21.6	20.1	11.6
		Ragi	31.6	..	11.3	28.9	..	15.8	28.4	..	15.3
Kandukur	Kandukur	Cholam	30.2	26.2	15.2	27.1	23.5	13.8	26.7	22.6	13.6
		Cumbu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Kandukur	Ragi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Cholam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Taluk.	Recording stations.	Grain.	October.			November.			December.		
			1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.	1876.	1891.	1897.
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Venkatagiri zamindari.	Darsi	Ragi	21.4	22.1	14.2	14.9	21.9	12.8	10.8	17.5	12.1
		Cholam	22.3	21.7	..	..	21.3	..	..	16.7	..
	Podili	Cumbu	20.0	18.0	11.9	..	17.8	11.7	..	14.8	11.6
		Ragi	20.1	23.8	14.5	13.0	22.8	12.7	9.1	17.5	11.1
Atmakur	Atmakur	Cholam	18.5	21.7	12.7	13.4	20.8	11.9	9.7	16.1	10.9
		Cumbu	16.9	19.3	11.5	12.3	18.8	10.8	8.9	14.5	9.8
	Atmakur	Ragi	18.2	23.0	18.3	10.9	21.8	15.8	9.1	17.2	12.9
		Cholam	17.3	20.8	16.7	10.5	20.1	16.4	8.6	16.2	12.4
Udayagiri	Udayagiri	Cumbu	..	18.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Ragi	15.8	24.2	15.7	11.2	24.0	15.4	9.0	19.5	12.3
	Udayagiri	Cholam	16.6	21.1	12.7	10.9	21.4	12.7	8.8	18.8	12.0
		Cumbu	13.6	21.9	16.4	10.6	22.0	14.8	8.6	17.4	11.5
Kanigiri	Kanigiri	Ragi	20.5	27.0	16.1	14.6	24.5	13.0	9.5	17.8	12.2
		Cholam	19.3	26.2	13.6	14.3	24.2	12.7	10.1	18.4	..
	Kanigiri	Cumbu	17.7	21.5	11.6	13.1	20.3	11.1	9.2	14.8	9.9
		Ragi	24.6	22.5	15.3	20.9	22.1	12.9	..	14.6	11.8
Kandukur	Kandukur	Cholam	20.3	21.8	13.6	13.6	20.7	10.7	10.7	12.9	10.3
		Cumbu	..	22.7	..	..	21.8	11.2	..	15.5	8.1
	Kandukur	Ragi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Cholam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

District average price—			Cholam.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
Normal rate	..	..	..	26.0	24.0
Warning "	..	..	..	19.5	18.0
Scarcity "	..	..	..	13.0	12.0

Probable duration of the distress.—Distress in the district is the result of a failure of the North-East monsoon following upon a year during which prices were verging upon scarcity rates. The early crop, which depended on the North-East monsoon to be brought to maturity, have after a fair promise largely failed, while the area of late sowings has been enormously reduced. Early cultivation is, as above stated, more general in the northern taluks, and it is in these that distress now exists. With a timely South-West monsoon, work should be freely available in the fields, and the necessity for State relief, may be expected to disappear about July 1898.

(True Copy and Extract).

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Collector of Nellore.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement), Mis. No. 1765, dated 11th March 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting permission to defer the submission of the general report on the condition of the districts in which distress is apprehended, till April next and requesting orders on the suggestion of the Government of India regarding the grant of relief in the form of cooked food in the test-work stage.

ORDER—No. 193, Revenue, dated 2nd April 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The report on the general economical condition of the Nellore district will be forwarded to the Government of India for information, and the Board of Revenue will, as requested, be allowed to submit in the course of the current month similar reports in the case of the other districts for which budget provision has been made on account of famine relief in 1898-99. Meanwhile, copies of the reports, already received, on the state of the season in the Chingleput and North Arcot districts will be transmitted to the Government of India with the remark that so far as it can be judged at present, these two districts and Nellore are the only districts in which apprehension of distress continues and that distress is not likely at any rate in the near future to affect any wider area.

2. As regards the suggestion of the Government of India to place more reliance, during the earlier stages of distress, on relief in the form of cooked food as a means of ascertaining the existence or the pressure of distress, the Government notes that in Nellore, where alone relief measures are in progress, the test stage is passed and that the question of offering cooked food as a test does not therefore arise. It will, however, be pointed out to the Government of India that the proposed test would have diametrically opposite effects in different parts of the country; while in some parts of the Presidency cooked food would be accepted only by persons in extreme want who had arrived at the stage of starvation, there are other districts where large classes of the people would accept it readily whether in want or not, and their doing so would furnish no real test of the necessity of relief measures. The Government will, however, be glad to receive the Board's views on the proposal.

3. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

S. S. Rohit
For 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.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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