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Pension (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 231

List

Order, 16th March 1897 No. 228.

Recorded.

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16-3-97

LD
16057

From J. L. R. W. Dept

135
No. 135

Dated 4th March 97

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT

Directing the grant of famine
batta to Govt. servants in Ganjam
in accordance with the provisions of
art 72 of the Civil Account Code
Vol I, Part I, and addressing the
Govt. of India with a view to the
present rule which gives rise to
anomalous results being altered.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 5TH FEB. 1897, No. 101.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjám, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 20th December 1896, Dis. No. 1764-Acc. :—

In G.O., No. 638, Revenue, dated 25th July 1889, famine batta was allowed to certain Government servants in this district, the reason for the concession being that the price of rice was then higher than 12 seers to the rupee, the scarcity rate then being 11·2. The average price of rice for November 1896 throughout the district was 10·4 seers to the rupee and the prices for the weeks ending 5th, 12th and 19th instant have been 10·4, 10·4 and 10·5, respectively, and our present scarcity rate is 10·2 seers to the rupee.

2. There does not seem to be any prospect of a material fall of the price. I would therefore recommend that the concession allowed in the Government Order above quoted be again allowed on the same scale and subject to the same conditions. I may mention that in the places where most of the Government servants in question draw and spend their pay, the price of rice has been considerably above the district average.

RESOLUTION—dated 5th February 1897, No. 101.

Submitted to Government for orders with reference to article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Fifth Edition, Volume I, Part I. In G.O., No. 597, Revenue, dated 16th July 1889, rice was declared to be the “common staple food” of the people of the Ganjám district, with reference to the price of which compensation for dearness of provisions was to be granted to the Government servants employed in the district. The price of rice ruling in the district since October last has been as noted on the margin and there is no likelihood of the prices falling for some months to come.

	Seers per rupee.
October 1896	12·4
November „	10·4
December „	10·3
January 1897	10·2*

* Approximate.

2. In this connection, the Board would invite attention to the remarks made in its Proceedings, No. 576, dated 15th August 1892, which to some extent apply this year also, although the general scarcity and pressure in Ganjám is now probably, so far as prices are concerned, as great as they were in 1889.

3. In these circumstances, Government servants of the classes referred to in article 72 of the Civil Account Code are entitled to the concession granted therein, and it should be granted to them, as it has, it is believed, already been granted in Bengal.

4. The Board would, however, take this opportunity of inviting the attention of Government to the anomalous results which follow the application of the rule in question. In Ganjám, a rise of 42 per cent. over the normal price of the common staple food-grain—rice—adopted for that district entitles Government servants to famine batta whilst in the adjoining district of Vizagapatam, it would require a rise of 133 per cent. in the price of ragi—the staple adopted for that district—before the

concession may be granted, while in the Deccan districts, no claim to such concession will be established until the prices of the staple for these districts—chulam—is 150 per cent. dearer than usual, and by the application of the Government of India rule, famine batta will be granted in Ganjám some months at least before any relief works are opened there, whereas in Bellary, where there are already over 20,000 persons in receipt of State relief, the time may never come this year for the application of the concession. This does not appear to the Board to be in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India in 1889—*vide* G.O., No. 597, Revenue, dated 16th July 1889.

5. In view of these considerations, the Board considers that it would be a far better gauge of general scarcity and pressure to adopt definite percentage increases over normal prices rather than the present arbitrary fixed price for all grains.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ Collector of Ganjám.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 12th.

Proceedings, 5th Feb. 1897, No. 101.

Famine batta.—Submitting, for orders of Government, letter from the Collector of Ganjam recommending the grant of — to Government servants in his district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read

Copy attached.

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
Rev. Sett. Co., No. 101 of 5th Feb. 1897.

Order thereon, No. 135 of 4th March 1897 (Pass).

The Government accepts the recommendation in para 3 of the Proceedings read above, and directs that as a temporary measure and until further orders all servants of Government on Civil establishments in the district of Ganjam whose pay does not exceed Rs. 16/- per mensem or in the case of officials required to keep a horse, Rs. 25 per mensem shall receive an extra allowance of Re. 1 per mensem, provided that the aggregate monthly pay and allowances shall in no case be less than Rs. 6.

2. As pointed out in para 4, the present rule which takes a fixed price of grain as indicative of distress gives rise to anomalous results, and the Government agrees with the Board in thinking that definite percentage increases over normal prices would be a far better gauge of general scarcity and pressure.

3. Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

(True Extract)

G. H. M.

as: Secretary to Govt.

To the Board of Rev., R. S.
" Other Heads of Depts. under the Rev. Secty.
" Financial Dept., with copy of letter.
" Other Depts. of the Secretariat.
" Accountant General.

7/1/97

Govt. of {189 } Madras.
REVENUE.

To

Dated

Recd.

Encl

Mis. G.O.,
R.

1897, No.

SUBJECT.