

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 731

DATED 12. 6. 97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reending Reue pros: on a proposal to adopt
half rice and half ragi for calculating relief
wages in Gaujam and to make certain altera-
tions in the rates prescribed in § 122 of the
Famine Code.

J 15/6/97.

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 (1897) of Madras. ^{Public Dept.} REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 366, 20th May 1897.

MAY.

N. this
order W. 731 of 12th June '97
Recorded.

Wages.

Stating that further evidence is needed to justify the adoption of half rice and half ragi for calculating relief — in Ganjam, and referring to the Sanitary Commissioner for remarks the Collector's proposal to make certain alterations in the quantity of certain articles in the ration prescribed in section 122 of the Famine Code.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th April 1897, No. 312 :—

Read—G.O., No. 1026, Revenue, dated 19th December 1890.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on Board's Proceedings containing its views on the administration of relief during the recent famine in Ganjám and proposals for amending the Famine Code.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 12th December 1896, No. 426.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, fortnightly narrative from the Ganjám district for the period ending 30th November 1896.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 29th December 1896, No. 467.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, fortnightly narrative of the Ganjám district for the period ending 15th December 1896.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 11th January 1897, No. 24.

ABSTRACT.—Informing the Collector of Bellary that wages to relief workers need not, in the circumstances reported, be calculated according to the price of ragi.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 25th January 1897, No. 56.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on letter from the Collector of Cuddapah asking that wages of relief workers may be calculated according to price of cholam and not ragi.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 26th January 1897, No. 67.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting, for orders of Government, letter from the Collector of Ganjám suggesting the adoption of rice and ragi combined as the standard on which to base relief wages, except in the Chicacole division.

Read—also the following letter from H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjám, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Tekkali, 1st April 1897, Camp No. 4-F :—

I have the honour to report, for your information and favour of sanction, that I have, after inspection of the kitchens at Parlákimedi and Tekkali in the sub-division of the district, found it necessary after an enquiry into the usual habits of the people, and under the advice of the local medical officer, to direct certain alterations in the scale of diet as laid down in section 122 of the Famine Code.

2. The rule for this district as laid down is that a famine wage or gratuitous relief shall consist of a ration of four-fifths ragi and one-fifth rice in every part except the sub-division, when it is to consist of ragi only.

3. My own experience since I have been in this district, both as Collector and as Principal Assistant Collector, tends to show that the morning meal throughout the district consists of ragi and the evening meal of rice, and I consider that the famine wage throughout the district should have been calculated on a basis of half rice and half ragi. With all due deference to Mr. Weir's opinion, I cannot arrive at any explanation of his statement that in the sub-division ragi only is the staple food of the country. I have made very particular personal enquiries on this point and I feel certain that he must have been misled in the matter.

4. It has been found both in kitchens and elsewhere that a sole diet of ragi, however finely pounded the flour may be, tends to produce diarrhoea. In the northern part of the district, it is stated that even when one meal consists of ragi, the latter must first be soaked in rice conjee-water before being cooked.

There is a somewhat severe outbreak of cholera at present prevailing in Tekkali and I have, on the recommendation of the local apothecary, sanctioned the substitute of one-fifth rice and four-fifths ragi for a pure diet of ragi, pending the Board's sanction. I request that my action may be approved. The change is, I consider, very necessary, as, if diarrhoea is provoked by the use of pure ragi, cholera, when cholera exists, is very likely to ensue.

The second point is in regard to the increase in the salt ration and a corresponding reduction in the amount of chillies and tamarind. Both at Parlákimedi and Tekkali the kitchen inmates complained that the allowance of salt was insufficient, and in each case the ration of tamarind, chillies and pulse was in excess of the actual requirements; section 122 of the Famine Code only allows relief officers to vary the proportion of tamarind and chillies, but does not authorize the reduction of these and an increase in the salt rations. I request that the proportion of salt may be increased from 1.75 to 2 tolas and that of chillies reduced from 1.25 to 1 tola.

Resolution—dated 26th April 1897, No. 312.

In his letter read above, the Collector of Ganjám requests that the famine wage throughout the district may be calculated on a ration of half rice, half ragi, instead of on a ration of one fifth rice, four-fifths ragi, for the northern divisions, and of pure ragi for the sub-division, as he is of opinion that throughout the district the morning meal consists of ragi, and the evening meal of rice. In its Proceedings, No. 426 of 1896, the Board directed that wages should be calculated as in 1889, and Mr. Weir in carrying out this direction adopted the proportion of 1 : 4, rice and ragi, although he had some doubts at first as to the way in which wages were calculated in that year (Board's Proceedings, No. 467 of 1896). He seems, however, to have arrived at a correct decision, for it will be seen from paragraph 43 of Mr. Horsfall's report (to be found in G.O., No. 1026, Revenue, dated 19th December 1890), that wages were originally calculated on ragi alone, but subsequently on one-fifth rice and four-fifths ragi. While commenting upon the lowness of the wages given, and showing how little difference there was between the relief given to the tasked labourer and him who was gratuitously relieved, Mr. Horsfall appears to have made no recommendation for calculating the wage on any other grain basis than that adopted during the later months of the period of distress in 1889. He appears, indeed, to have considered a porridge of four-fifths ragi and one-fifth rice a common form of food in the district (*vide* paragraph 38). It was only in connection with the fixing of scarcity rates that he expressed the opinion that rice should be adopted as the standard grain in place of ragi, and in reviewing the report, the Board and Government followed the same lines. The question of what grain should be adopted as the basis for the calculation of wages was not then discussed, though it was decided that the price of rice should be substituted for that of ragi for the purpose of computing famine batta due to Government servants.

2. Mr. Weir reported in his No. 296-F, dated 19th January 1897, that it was only in the Chicacole division that the people lived on ragi alone, the people of the rest of the district, who are mostly Uriyas, adopting a diet of ragi and rice combined. Mr. Taylor, who says he has made very careful enquiries into the matter, is confident that throughout the district the morning meal consists of ragi, and the evening meal of rice, and therefore requests that wages may be calculated on a basis of half rice, half ragi. The Board is satisfied that Mr. Taylor's contention is correct, and he will therefore, in accordance with section 121, Famine Code, adopt the average price of rice and ragi combined for the purpose of calculating relief wages. His action in adopting a diet of one-fifth rice and four-fifths ragi at Tekkali for one of pure ragi is approved.

3. The Collector further asks for authority to increase the salt ration from 1.75 to 2 tolas and reduce the chilli ration from 1.25 to one tola. The recommendation is, as pointed out by the Collector, not strictly in accordance with section 122, Famine Code, but the Board will not object to the adoption of the course proposed on condition that the total cost of "Other items", as provided in the Code, is not exceeded by the change.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Ganjam.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 366, Revenue, dated 20th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Government is of opinion that further evidence is needed to justify the adoption of half rice and half ragi for calculating relief wages in Ganjam. In December last Mr. Weir reported that though the people used equal quantities of rice and ragi in ordinary years they were living mainly on ragi supplemented by a little rice in the present year. Mr. Taylor's letter confirms the above statement as to the food of the labourers in ordinary years, but says nothing as to the grain used by them now. The Board of Revenue is requested to make further enquiries on the point.

2. The proposal to substitute an additional quarter tola of salt for an equal quantity of chilli in the ration prescribed in section 122 will be referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for remarks. Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel King will also be requested to favour Government with his opinion on the remarks of the Collector of Ganjam about the irritating nature of ragi.

3. In the meantime the instructions issued by the Board in paragraphs 2 and 3 of its Proceedings will be allowed to stand.

(True Extract.)

A. M. Whapp

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Copy to the Public Department. ✓

Encl. Shaik Kiam.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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