

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1872.*

No. 71. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th September 1871, No. 4,169 :—

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 19th July 1871, No. 95, Revenue Department :—

IN the above Order Government refer for report a Resolution of the Government of India, dated 31st May 1871, No. 751, ordering a re-consideration of the grounds on which (1) batta at the rate of Annas 2 a-day is granted in this Presidency to Peons on a salary of Rs. 8 a-month, and (2) as to the grant of batta to Peons of every grade while travelling within their talooks if Talooka Peons, or within the district if belonging to the establishment of Collectors.

2. The Government of India observe that until Mr. Pelly's revision of Revenue Establishments, there were no Peons on Rs. 8 a-month in the districts, that accordingly until that time no Collector's Peons could have received higher batta than Anna 1 a-day, and the fact of the pay of a large proportion of them having been raised by that revision from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 during the years 1836-67 and 1868 did not necessitate further the doubling of their travelling batta.

3. Up to the year 1859 no servant of the class of Peons consisting of the several grades of Peons, Deloyets, Duffadars, Jemadars, etc., was considered entitled to batta. The hardship to which these servants were subjected by this exclusion became the subject of frequent and earnest representations from the district officers, and the Government then resolved to grant to them batta at two rates, viz., Anna 1 per diem to those whose salaries ranged up to Rs. 7, and Annas 2 per diem to those whose salaries exceeded that amount.

4. In 1861 the rates of batta underwent a general revision, and a scale of universal application, based chiefly on the recommendations of Mr. Ricketts, the late Commissioner for the revision of Civil establishments, but amended and simplified so as to suit the wants of this Presidency, was then sanctioned by the local Government. By this every servant, no matter what kind of service he had to perform, was declared entitled to certain rates of batta, solely with reference to the amount of his salary. Thus the meanest servant in the Office, when called upon to travel, was allowed batta along with the highest. Anna one per diem was the rate for all those below, and Annas 2 per diem for all on or above a salary of Rs. 8 up to 15 per mensem.

5. This scale has been in force ever since throughout the Revenue Department.

6. In the year 1866, in the general revision of salaries of the Revenue Establishments of the Presidency, the salary of some of the Peons on the Collector's and Sub-Collector's Establishments was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8, and these, by virtue of the then existing batta rules, became entitled to draw the higher rate of Annas 2 per diem.

7. Thus it will be observed that the higher rate of batta to Peons, though it followed Mr. Pelly's revision, was not created by it. As to the raising of the Peon's pay generally during that revision, that was based upon the utter insufficiency of the salaries with reference to the rise of the prices of the necessaries of life which could not be considered anything but permanent. There appears to the Board, therefore, no ground for depriving Peons on Rs. 8 salary and upwards of their higher rate of batta, while other office-servants on similar pay, such as Moochies

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and Attenders would still continue to draw it under the general scale. The measure would create a distinction both invidious and unjust.

8. As regards the second point referred for consideration, viz., the grant of batta to Peons when travelling within their respective talook or district limits, the withdrawal of it would be productive of great hardship, and as there is generally little travelling beyond these limits, would amount to a virtual denial of batta to this class of Peons altogether. The circumstances under which 'batta' was extended to Talook Peons along with certain other talook servants are fully detailed in Board's Proceedings, 30th November 1868, recorded in Government Order, 2nd February 1869, No. 276. The grant of batta to Talook Peons is, moreover, restricted to those occasions on which they actually accompany the Tahsildar, when they are generally absent from home a long time and travel great distances.

9. The principle on which batta is granted, viz., as compensating a servant for the extra expenses he is put to by being called on to leave his home and to travel, being once admitted, its applicability to all classes of servants, and especially to the lower grades of them, is obvious. In point of fact the latter need it more than the higher grades. The lowest rates allowed, viz., Anna 1 and Annas 2, are barely sufficient to purchase food for the daily requirements of life. The enlargement of talooks under Mr. Pelly's revision has increased the area of these divisions in most cases to such an extent that it is often impossible for a Peon to start from home on duty after breakfast and return for supper. He must either starve or make calls upon the liberality of the ryots or village-officers on his route. As to his defraying his expenses out of his pay is simply impossible.

10. The Board would, under these circumstances, strongly deprecate any measure of economy which would result in diminishing the emoluments of this lowest paid class of servants in our Revenue Establishments who certainly are called upon to do hard and continuous work. The saving to the State would be utterly out of proportion to the discontent certain to be caused by the measure and to the opening for improper requisitions which would be made upon the people to supply the deficiency of public allowances.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1872, No. 37.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Financial Department of the Government of India, with reference to Proceedings of that department, dated 31st May 1871, No. 751.

2. The Government concur in the views expressed by the Board of Revenue in the foregoing Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
8th January 1872.

No. 73.

To

No. 38.

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

SIR,—In their Proceedings dated 31st May 1871, No. 751, copy of which was laid before this Government by the

Accountant-General, the Government of India suggest the reduction of the Batta to Peons in this Presidency on a salary of Rs. 8 a-month from Annas 2 to Anna 1 a-day, as also the denial of batta to Peons of every grade when travelling within their talooks if talooka Peons, or within their Collectorates if belonging to the establishment of Collectors.

2. I am now directed to forward the accompanying Proceedings* of the Board of Revenue, containing a full

report on both the above-mentioned points. It will be seen that the Board deprecate any reduction in the emoluments of the low paid but hard-worked class of servants in question, and further point out that the measure is certain to lead to discontent and to improper requisitions upon the people.

3. The Government concur in the Board's views, and trust that, under the circumstances explained in the paper herewith forwarded, the rules on the subject now obtaining in this Presidency may not be disturbed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev.

Revenue Department

No 37

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 8th January 1872

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Deprecating withdrawal
of batta allowed to Pems in Revl
Dept. when travelling within their
respective Taluq or Dist. limits
& informing Govt. that there appears
to be no ground for depriving
Pems in 8th salary of higher rate
of batta, viz 2 annas a day,
now enjoyed by them.

(H.E. 29th Sept/71 D. 4169)

A. P. N.
SOS

Ordered to be
communicated to the
Finl. Department of
the Government of India
with reference to Proceed-
ings of that Department
dated 31st May 1871 D. 751.

The

The Government
concur in the views exp.

expressed by the Board
of Revenue in the fore.

going Proceedings.

LB

H. Board of Revenue. Dated 9 January 1872
G. Accountant General.

CP/20/11

No 11-72

Go.

Batta to Pans

Cop

Des

6th Dec 72 R 19th Dec 72

7 copies
despatched on the
9 January 1872

R.D.

No 38

To
The Secy to the Govt of India
Financial Dept

For
In their proposals
3rd May 1871 to 7th
copy of which was
sent by the Secy to the
Govt of India suggest
the reduction of the
Batta to Pans in this
on a salary of Rs 8 a month
Residence from 1st
2 to Anna 1 a day, as
also the denial of Batta
to Pans of every grade
when travelling within
their Taluqs, if Talooka
pears, or within their
Collectorates if belonging
to the establishment
of Collectors.

R A.P.
Sol

2. I am now
directed to forward
the accompanying
Copy of the Report of
Res, containing a
full report on both
the above mentioned
points. It will be
^{observed} ~~perceived~~ that the
Board deprecate any
indication in the argu-
ments of the
law. paid but laid. under
class of servants in
question, and further
point out that the
measure is certain
to lead to dissimilarity
and to improper
regulations upon
the people

+ dated 29 Sep 1871
No 4109-

The

The Govt. Council
in the Board's view,
and trust that
under the circum-
stances explained
in the paper herewith
forwarded, the Rules
on the subject now
obtaining in this
Presidency may not
be disturbed.

LD

8 January 1872

CCD 28/11

To Govt of India
Batta to Peons

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.,

Dated January 8th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 8th January 1872, No. 37.

JANUARY.

Nos. 71-72.

Batta allowed to Peons in the Revenue Department.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on this subject, ordered to be communicated to the Financial Department of the Government of India.