156

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	156	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	3. 2	1964.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd February 1874.

Read Proceedings of Government, No. 150, of this date recording certain papers respecting the present state of the Madura District :—

Read also the following papers :—

No. 20. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th January 1874, No. 177 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Lakshmiparatope, 22nd January 1874, No. 42.

THE north-east monsoon has so entirely failed in this district that the bulk of the area under the rain-fed tanks has not even been ploughed, and where cultivation has been attempted the crop has withered in the blade.

2. Most of the river-channels have now been dry for days, and the crops under them are beginning to fail on the higher levels and on the outskirts of the irrigation. The crops under the channels, however, are so near maturity that a few heavy showers or a fresh in the river would secure them in most cases, but though the clouds are gathering, there is no immediate prospect of rain.

3. The price of paddy has risen from 4 Rs. to 10 Rs. a cottah within the last two months; the present price is the equivalent of 4 Rs. a-bushel of rice, or rather more than five Madras measures of rice per rupee.

4. The dry crops have failed altogether in the Sankaranainarkovil Taluq; and in the uplands of the river-irrigated taluqs but little will be harvested.

5. The price of cotton is so low, 110 Rs. a-candy of 500 lbs., that there is but little to set off against the loss of the cereal grains.

6. Under these circumstances, I request permission to remit up to 50 per cent. of the dry land assessment in those localities that most urgently need assistance; such a remission may be estimated at about a lakh of rupees. The remissions for waste and withered crops under rain-fed tanks will be about two lakhs of rupees, and it will probably be necessary to remit about a lakh more for failure of crop under minor rivers and channel-fed tanks. Probable total remission four lakhs of rupees.

I will telegraph a weekly report.

Telegram from Collector of Tinnevelly, to Secretary, Revenue Board, dated 26th January 1874.

"SHOWERS have fallen since I wrote; these may save the rice-crop now in ear, but water in the river is needed to save the crop in blade. My estimated remission is not affected by rain-fall now."

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The drouth, which the Collector describes, is very serious, and the price he quotes for rice (seven imperial seers per rupee), considering the sudden rise, is alarming. In December the price list shows that, on an average through the whole district, 10·7 seers of first sort rice and 12 seers of second sort rice were sold for a rupee.

3. The amount of remission which the Collector expects to have to give, viz., four lakhs, is enormous, and the Board think it most important that an active and zealous officer should be deputed to act for Mr. Puckle when he takes the leave, which has been already granted to him. With regard to the leave which has been recommended in the case of Mr. Bird, the Board think he should, if possible, postpone leaving the district until the Jamabundy is over. The grant of large remissions is always attended by extensive frauds, and the only way in which these can be checked is by the personal inspection of tracts for which remission is claimed by the Collector and his Assistants. If Mr. Bird leaves the district, there will be no Assistant Collector in it.

4. The Board will be prepared to authorize liberal remissions of the assessment on dry land on receipt of fuller information; but they do not feel at liberty to give the Collector the wide discretion which he asks on a general and incomplete statement that the dry crops have failed in the Sankaranainarcovil Taluq, and that little will be harvested in the uplands of the river-irrigated taluqs.

5. The localities where the dry crops have failed and the extent of the failure in each such locality must be more exactly stated, and the information should be based on personal inspection by some responsible officer.

No. 21. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd February 1874, No. 198.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 29th January 1874, No. 45.

UNDER the Board's Circular Order, No. 20, of 1872, remissions of punjah assessment can only be granted with the special sanction of the Board in very exceptional years, or under very exceptional circumstances, and the Board's sanction must be applied for before the end of January.

2. I, therefore, lose no time in informing the Board that I fear, from what I hear, there will be an absolute necessity this year for remitting the whole or considerable portions of the dry assessment in parts of some, if not of all, of the taluqs of this district. I have as yet only been able to discuss the matter orally with some of my divisional officers and Tahsildars, but their opinions generally point to the probability of a very bad harvest of dry grains.

3. I have called for reports not only on the prospect of the harvest, but also on the probability (which, I fear, is not by any means remote) of a scarcity of food in some of the taluqs during the next four or five months, and will again address the Board when the replies are received with fuller information in detail.

4. In the meanwhile, and in order to be within the limit of time prescribed for the application by the Circular Order above quoted, I beg to apply for power to remit personally, or through the divisional officers, at the approaching Jamabundy, the whole or such portion of the assessment on dry lands as the circumstances of the case in any particular locality may urgently call for.

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SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector will, of course, be careful that, if a scarcity is really coming, it is foreseen and provided against. He should keep the Board informed on the subject.

3. The Board must have further information before they can grant the Collector the wide discretion as to remission on dry land which he asks for. The several localities in which the remission will have to be given must be specified after they have been inspected by some responsible officer, and the maximum percentage, which will have to be remitted in each, must be specified.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1874, No. 156.

Miscellaneous.

WHILE awaiting the further reports from these districts (Madura, Tinnevelly, and South Arcot) which have been called for by the Board of Revenue, His Excellency in Council thinks it highly desirable that a special officer should be employed in each district to assist the Collector and divisional officers in reporting upon the tracts, in respect of which a remission of assessment to such a serious extent is likely to be demanded. The selection of such an officer may probably best be made under present circumstances by the Collector of the district in each case; some experienced Tahsildar or Sheristadar being nominated for the duty, who will then be gazetted by the Government as a Temporary Deputy-Collector. Orders to this effect will be communicated to the three Collectors by telegram, with instructions to reply in the same way.

2. Mr. Bird's leave will be postponed as suggested by the Board; and the Government are confident that Mr. Puckle, in the existing state of the Tinnevelly District, would desire to remain at the head of affairs, unless advised to absent himself by the medical officer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

weighed. there is a great

Govt. of 1874. Madras.

REVENUE.

The BOARD of REVENUE

Dated February 1874.

G. O. 3rd February 1874, No. 150

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 20—22

Remission of Assessment.—Papers relating to the state of the Madura, Tinnevelly, and South Arcot Districts, and the [illegible] anticipated.

Threatened distress in Madura

Ext. letter from Lt Col. Roberts, the Dist. Engineer. d/24-1-74.

" We are in a bad way here for water – the hot weather has already begun, & the fields & crops are quite parched – Rice has already gone up 50 percent in price: & I fear the poor people have a bad time before them – Fortunately they are a much enduring people, or we sh.d probably have riots.

The sending up of Rice to Bengal will have a lamentable effect here – In the poverty stricken Zamindaries of Ramnad & Shivaganga there are famines in certain localities in the best of years – what the people will suffer this year, Heaven alone knows –

1-26.

(1) Any report from Collr?

(2) any information about prices?

(3) Any unusual exports by Sea to Ceylon or elsewhere?

1. Yes. Frm Collr 16 Jan 74 No 4. Dry crops have failed in large tracts. Cholum specially bad. Season in Ramnad very bad. Nunjah crops much below the average. Punjah remissions will be wanted (This letter will be submitted to Govt. this evening)
2. Prices are rising. Vide List enclosed wh please return. (The present figures give the amount sold per Rupee in seers)
3. Rice is only exported to Ceylon. There is no great increase

in the exportation of rice

~~April to Dec. ~~1871~~ 1871 — cwt 5,822~~
~~~~1872~~ 1872 — 14,791~~
~~1873 — 20,379~~

~~Jan.y cwt — Feb cwt — Mar cwt~~

~~1872. 975~~
~~1363~~
~~2697~~
~~~~10,857~~~~
~~5,035~~

	1871	1872	1873
April	6	563	·41
May	0	1947	89
June	0	3582	1959
July	553	910	2870
Aug	13	3833	6241
Sept	2904	1109	4833
Oct	1539	1684	2436
Nov	522	577	617
Dec	285	586	1293
	5,822	14791	20,379
	1872	1873	
Jan	975	6415	not known
Feb	1363	5416	
Mar	2697	5551	
	10857	32173	

5/156

My dear Carmichael,

I send replies. Rice has gone up but not quite 50 P Ct at Madura. Perhaps it wd be better if it had gone up a little more, for that wd have put a drag on the exportation

Trichinopoly is also very dry

Yours sincerely

Jan 26 J Grose

Bad season in Madras

No. 156. 8 5/156

Mine

From [illegible] in Council

Read Procs. Govt. No. 150 of this date, recording certain papers respecting the present state of the Madura district.

Read also Bd's Pro. of 30th Jany.
" " " 2d Feby.

While awaiting the further reports from these districts — Madura, Tinnevelly, and South Arcot — wh. have been called for by the Bd. Rev., H. E. in C. thinks it highly desirable that a special Officer shd. be employed in each district to assist

^ the Collr. & Divisional Officers

~~[illegible]~~ in reporting upon the tracts in respect of which a remission of assessment to such a serious extent is likely to be ~~[illegible]~~ demanded. The selection of such an officer may probably best be made under present circumstances by the Collr. of the district in each case; some experienced Tahsildar or Sarishtadar being nominated for the duty, ~~[illegible]~~ who will then be gazetted by the Govt. as a Temporary Dy. Collector. Orders to this effect will be communicated to the three Collrs. by telegram, with instructions to reply in the same way.

2. Mr. Bird's leave will be postponed as suggested by the Bd.; and the Govt. are confident that Mr. Puckle ~~[illegible]~~ the existing state of

the Tinnevelly district
wd desire to remain at
the head of affairs, unless advised
to absent himself by the Medical
Officer.

D - Feby 3/74

3d Feby /74

Despd. in Mil. L. No. of
Rev. 3d Feby /74

14 copies dis. 6th Feby /74

40/4

20-22

State of Season
in Madura
Tinnevelly &
S. Arcot

Copy to Bd at once
Infs -

Read the following papers:-
No. 20 Pro of the Bd of Rev d/ 30 Jany 74 No. 177

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8/156

Tinnevelly Collector's Circuit
Cutcherry Lakshmipuratope
22nd January 1874

No. 42

From,
R. K. Puckle Esquire
Collector

To,
J. Grose Esqre.
Secretary to the Board
of Revenue, Madras

Sir,

The North east monsoon has so entirely failed in this District that the bulk of the area under the rain fed tanks has not even been ploughed and where cultivation has been attempted, the crop has withered in the blade.

2. Most of the river channels have now been dry for days and the crops under them are beginning to fail on the higher level and on the outskirts of the irrigation. The crops under the channels however are so near maturity that a few heavy showers or a fresh in the river would secure them in most cases, but though the clouds are gathering there is no immediate prospect of rain.

3. The price of paddy has risen from 4 Rupees to 10 Rupees a Cottah within the last two months. The present price is the equivalent of 4 Rupees a bushel

bushel of rice or rather more than 5 Madras measures of rice per Rupee.

4. The dry crops have failed altogether in the Sankaranamarkoil Taluq; and in the uplands of the river irrigated Taluqs, but little will be harvested.

5. The price of cotton is so low, 110 Rupees a Candy of 500 lbs, that there is but little to set off against the loss of the cereal grains.

6. Under these circumstances, I request permission to remit up to 60 per cent of the dry land assessment in those localities that most urgently need assistance. Such a remission may be estimated at about a lac of Rupees

The remissions for waste and withered crops under rain fed tanks will be about two lacs of Rupees and it will probably be necessary to remit about a lac more for failure of crop under minor rivers and channel fed tanks - Probable total remission 4 lacs of Rupees.

I will telegraph a weekly report.

I have &c

(Signed) R. K. Puckle
Collector.

(True copy)

J Grose
Secretary

C McN

Enclosure in Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
to the Secretary to
Government R. D.
dated 30th January 1874

Rev. $\frac{2}{295/74}$

Tinnevelly Collector's
report on the unfavorable
character of season
in his District &c

R. S. 7/3 Feby/74
No. 13 F. 20.

Telegram

To, Madras — From Tinnevelly

To- Secretary, Revenue Board — From Collector

" Showers have fallen since I wrote these may save the Rice crop now in ear but water in the river is needed to save the crop in blade - My estimated remission is not affected by rain-fall now".

(True Copy)

J Grose
Secretary

Enclosure in Pro-
-ceedings of the Board
of Revenue to the Secretary
to Government, R.D.
dated 30th January 1874

Rev. $\frac{1}{295/74}$

Copy of Telegram from
Collector of Tinnevelly
reporting that some
showers have fallen
since: he has written
to Board & that his
estimated remission
is not likely to be
affected –

P.G. d/ 3 Feby:/74
In B. No. 20.

Remission rules.

Revenue Department

Read the following papers:–

No. 20 – Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 30th January 1874.

Read letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 22nd January 1874 No. 42.

Read also Telegram from the same officer dated 26th Idem.

Submitted for the information of Government

The drouth which the Collector describes is very serious and the price he quotes for rice (7 Imperial Seers per Rupee) considering the sudden rise, is alarming. In December the price list shows that on an average through the whole district 10.7 seers of First sort rice and 12 seers of second sort rice were sold for a Rupee.

The amount of Remission which the Collector expects to have to give, viz. 4 lacs is enormous, and the Board think it most important that an active and zealous Officer should be deputed to act for Mr. Puckle, when he takes the leave which has been already granted to him. With regard to the leave+ which has been recommended in the case of Mr. Bird, the Board think he should if possible postpone leaving the district until the Jamabundy is over. The grant of large remissions is always attended by extensive frauds, and the only way in which these

+ leave for

Revenue Department

No. 24 — Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 2nd February 1874

Read the following

No. 45

From,
J. H. Garstin Esqre,
Collector of South Arcot

To,
J. Grose Esqre,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

Under the Board's Circular Order No. 20 of 1872 remissions of punjah assessment can only be granted with the special sanction of the Board in very exceptional years or under very exceptional circumstances; and the Board's sanction must be applied for before the end of January.

2. I therefore lose no time in informing

the Board that I fear from what I hear, there will be an absolute necessity this year for remiting the whole or considerable portions of the dry assessment in parts of some, if not of all, of the Talugs of this District, I have as yet only been able to discuss the matter orally with some of my Divisional Officers and Tahsildars, but their opinions generally point to the probability of a very bad harvest of dry grains.

3. I have called for reports not only on the prospect of the harvest but also on the probability, which I fear is not by any means remote, of a scarcity of food, in some of the Talugs during the next 4 or 5 months, and will again address the Board when the replies are received with fuller information in detail.

In

these can be checked is by the personal inspection of tracts for which remission is claimed by the Collector and his Assistants. If Mr. Bird leaves the district there will be no Assistant Collector in it.

The Board will be prepared to authorize liberal remissions of the assessment on dry land on receipt of fuller information, but they do not feel at liberty to give the Collector the wide discretion which he asks on a general and incomplete statement that the dry crops have failed in the Sankaranainarcovil Talug and that little will be harvested in the uplands of the river irrigated Talugs.

The localities where the Dry Crops have failed and the extent of the failure in each such locality must be more exactly stated, and the information should be based on personal inspection by some responsible officer.

(True extract)

J Grose
Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copies of letter and Telegram from Collector.

[illegible]
Copd [illegible]

20.

Revenue 1874 Dept
Proceedings No 295 of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 30th }
Despd 30 } January
Recd 31 } 1874.

Ans'd.
S.O. No 156 - 3 Feby/74

Submitting to Govern-
-ment reports from
Collector of Tinnevelly
on unfavorable state
of season in the District
and requesting Collector
to report fully regarding
failure of dry crops.

8

17/156

4. In the meanwhile, and in order to be within the limit of time prescribed for the application by the Circular Order above quoted, I beg to apply for power to remit personally or through the Divisional Officers, at the approaching Jamabandy, the whole or such portion of the assessment on dry lands as the circumstances of the case in any particular locality may urgently call for.

I have &ca
(Signed) J. H. Garstin
Collector.

South Arcot
Collector's Office
Cuddalore
29th January 1874

Submitted for the information of Government.

The Collector will of course be careful that if a scarcity is really coming, it is foreseen and provided against. He should keep the Board informed on the subject.

The Board must have further information before they can grant the Collector the wide discretion as to remission on dry land which he asks for. The several localities in which the remission will have to be given must be specified after they have been inspected by some responsible officer, and the maximum percentage which will have to be remitted in each must be specified.

(True copy & Extract,)

J Grote
Secretary.

To
The

Revenue 1874 Depts

No. 327

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 2d }
Despd 2d } February
Recd 3d } 1874.

Covered

S.O. No. 156 — 3 Febry 74

Subject.

Remission — of assessment on dry lands in South Arcot — Letter of Collr. requesting power for grant of — on account of bad harvest — submitted for information of Government with remarks for Collector's guidance & information.

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