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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.–	1 6 7 2	Press Mis.–
Dated	9 . 3 . 1 9 7 9	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th March 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 304. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th March 1877, No. 1030:—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1877, No. 127:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 10,682, dated 5th December last, calling for a report as to (1) how long and (2) to what extent payments were made to coolies employed on famine relief-works without ascertaining the actual amount of work done, I have the honor to state that it is impracticable to fix any uniform rates for earthwork and gravel-work for all works; the task to be exacted from each gang of coolies varies according to local circumstances. The setting of task-work was for the most part at first entrusted to Relief Inspectors and Maistries, and the Tahsildars took pains themselves to see that fair tasks were set by these officers.

2. The Sub-Collector has introduced a modified kind of task-work in his division. He exacts not more than sixteen cubic yards per Rupee in gravel-work (including storing or spreading) from a gang of fifty people, while in earthwork the maximum fixed is twenty cubic yards. A supervising officer measures up the work roughly, and does not allow the work to fall below the scale.

3. In the Head Assistant Collector's Division the task exacted from the principal gang working in the locality is such that the number of yards they turn out for each rupee paid to them is not the number of yards they would have to turn out if their work was paid for at the ordinary Public Works Department rates which are mentioned below—

Earthwork—Ten or twelve cubic yards per Rupee according as it is soft or hard when the earth is within ten yards of the spot where it is to be used, and one Pie extra for every ten yards further off.

Gravel-work—Eight yards per Rupee when the gravel is within ten yards of the spot where it is to be used, and one Pie extra for every ten yards further off.

4. The week's task for each gang is marked out and shown to the gang at the commencement of each week by the Maistry or Relief Inspector, and then the Kolkar or Mootsuddy concerned has to see that this task is done by the gang. At the end of the week before the gang book is closed for payment, the Supervisor or Relief Inspector inspects the outturn of each gang and fines the gang which has not done its task.

5. In the Bellary Deputy Collector's Division and in the Bellary Taluq the work of each Kolkar's gang is turned out in the following rates—

(1). Either earthwork, including lifting, carrying, spreading and beating or tamping, twenty cubic yards.

(2). Or excavating gravel, including lifting, carrying, and storing, sixteen cubic yards if soft, fourteen cubic yards if moderately hard, and twelve cubic yards if hard.

(3). Or breaking metal, including collecting, metres, &c., six cubic yards. Where prickly-pear has to be cut and removed, wells have to be cleared out, or any work of a miscellaneous character has to be performed, Superintendents use their discretion, assigning a definite and sufficient task for each day. The task on roads, &c., is marked off by the Public Works Department, and the District Engineer directs his subordinates to assist in examining and measuring up at the close of the day. Mus-

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3. In the third division 6 cubes

diminish the two exposed from the

principal face covering in the

boards at each end the number

of yards they turn out for each layer

placed in them, by the number of

yards they would have to turn out

if placed in the open air, for each

of which number 9 cubic yards are

to be measured, which for the

first 12 cubes yards plus 1/3 per cube

=12 add 4 yards, or four cubic yards

equal to another 10 yards of the second

cube, for every 10 yards of which

add 1 yard, 3 yards for the

Rubbish