

(1) Number of pages 8
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1304	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6-3-1877	197

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18/8

1304

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

20th February 1877, No. 635.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 336. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th February 1877, No. 655.*

THE Board have been directed by G. O., 17th January 1877, No. 157, Financial Department, to submit to Government on the 17th February a revised estimate of the cost of relief throughout the Presidency in the official years 1876-77 and 1877-78, for communication to the Government of India.

2. Since the Board submitted the estimate recorded in G. O., 23rd December 1876, some materials for a better one have accrued. The actual expenditure to the end of December has been exactly ascertained, and that of January approximately reported; and the taluqwar reports in some cases contain estimates by the local officers of the numbers who will be in receipt of relief on the 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July, respectively. These estimates, however, are in many cases based on apparently insufficient data, and are in few complete. The recent alteration in the scale of wages, too, has not yet been sufficiently long in operation to enable the Board to form a judgment as to its effect. The uncertainty necessarily attending estimates such as the Board are called upon to make is however recognized, and while they have not much confidence in that now submitted, they trust it will be accepted as the best possible in present circumstances.

3. The statement of actuals furnished by the Accountant-General to the end of December includes a sum of Rupees 30,23,636 paid for grain at the Presidency, besides which it appears some money has been paid by the Government of India in Calcutta, of the amount of which the Board are not aware. The Government grain has not yet been brought much into consumption and it will be used hereafter in reduction of direct outlay on wages and gratuitous relief. The estimate as to the future must be framed by taking certain numbers at an average rate; and the outlay in the purchase of grain will therefore not be separately shown in the Board's estimate.

4. The most recent of the weekly reports shows outlay in relief wages in the week Rupees 5,95,743 for a mean number of 898,930 persons; and in gratuitous relief Rupees 28,001 for a mean number of 57,293. These give as the average cost 1 Anna 6 Pies for coolies on relief works, and 1 Anna 1½ Pies for persons in gratuitous relief. The Board will adopt the former rate, but the lump system will somewhat increase the cost per head under gratuitous relief, and it will be safer to estimate for it by lump sums.

5. *Bellary.*—The Board's former estimate, the actual numbers to be compared with it according to the weekly reports for December, January, and February, and the revised future estimate of numbers on relief works and their cost, are shown below. The cost to the end of December is the whole outlay according to the Accountant-General's statement; that for January and February is estimated from the relief reports; and for the remaining months the cost of the coolies at 1 Anna and 6 Pies per diem is entered :—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November ..		Rs.		Rs.
December ..	250,000	8,51,350	265,382	9,50,000
January ..	270,000	11,45,250	285,794	8,50,000
February ..	280,000	9,80,000	314,542	9,50,000
March ..	300,000	11,00,000	375,000	10,75,213
April ..	300,000	11,50,000	385,000	10,50,000
May ..	275,000	10,50,000	330,000	9,50,000
June ..	200,000	7,00,000	280,000	7,00,120
July ..	150,000	5,80,330	175,000	5,00,500
August ..	75,000	2,80,330	75,000	2,17,200
Total ..		79,32,190		78,74,725

To this is to be added about Rupees 15,000 per mensem for establishments, and Rupees 50,000 per mensem for gratuitous relief for eight months (January to August), making the total estimate Rupees 83,94,000 in round numbers, of which Rupees 43,12,000 will fall in 1876-77.

6. *Kurnool*.—The following are the corresponding figures for the Kurnool District:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November ..		Rs.		Rs.
December ..	100,000	4,25,000	100,000	4,07,075
January ..	200,000	7,75,000	219,774	6,80,235
February ..	200,000	8,75,000	200,000	7,25,000
March ..	200,000	9,45,750	200,000	8,45,750
April ..	200,000	9,27,500	200,000	7,37,500
May ..	200,000	8,01,500	200,000	7,45,225
June ..	180,000	6,75,000	200,000	6,85,000
July ..	100,000	5,07,500	100,000	4,85,000
August ..	50,000	1,93,750	75,000	2,17,500
Total ..		62,23,750		61,25,181

Establishment and gratuitous relief may be estimated at Rupees 35,000 per mensem for eight months. The total estimate will therefore be Rupees 67,06,000 in round numbers. Of this Rupees 37,72,000 will be expended in 1876-77.

7. *Cuddapah*.—The figures are as follows:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November ..		Rs.		Rs.
December ..	80,000	2,10,000	102,540	1,41,910
January ..	200,000	5,07,500	192,285	4,05,000
February ..	200,000	6,25,000	117,789	4,30,000
March ..	180,000	5,31,250	137,000	4,50,544
April ..	150,000	4,50,000	135,000	3,75,000
May ..	120,000	4,00,000	120,000	3,41,700
June ..	80,000	3,00,000	80,000	2,81,200
July ..	30,000	1,10,000	40,000	1,45,310
Total ..		31,15,000		30,87,865

The Board estimate establishments at Rupees 15,000 and gratuitous relief at Rupees 10,000 a month, or for eight months Rupees 2,00,000,—total estimate Rupees 32,63,000, and Rupees 20,03,000 in 1876-77.

8. *Nellore*.—The District Officers estimate 75,800 on the 1st March, 93,200 on the 1st May, and 29,500 only on the 1st June. The Board clearly did not allow for a sufficiently rapid decrease. They now enter the following figures:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November ..		Rs.		Rs.
December ..	50,000	1,55,025	51,000	42,846
January ..	50,000	1,98,750	59,001	1,14,203
February ..	60,000	2,10,000	65,000	1,36,000
March ..	100,000	3,87,500	80,000	2,82,500
April ..	125,000	4,08,750	95,000	2,67,187
May ..	140,000	5,12,500	10,000	25,000
June ..	150,000	6,02,500	75,000	2,10,357
July ..	130,000	5,02,750	50,000	1,45,313
August ..	100,000	3,87,500	20,000	58,125
September ..	50,000	1,87,500		
Total ..		36,79,375		14,30,173

Establishments may come to Rupees 10,000 per mensem, and gratuitous relief to Rupees 20,000; which adds Rupees 2,70,000 and raises the total estimate to Rupees 17,00,000, of which Rupees 8,10,000 may be taken to 1876-77.

9. *Chingleput*.—The Collector estimates the probable numbers as 28,000, 40,000, and 50,000, on the 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July. These figures seem nearly sufficient, the rate of increase having been hitherto very slow. The Board think, however, that the estimate must be somewhat raised, and propose the following:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November ..		Rs.		Rs.
December ..	5,000	19,375	8,844	6,788
January ..	30,000	1,16,250	11,789	50,533
February ..	50,000	2,10,000	12,504	45,000
March ..	80,000	3,10,000	25,000	72,500
April ..	100,000	3,75,000	40,000	1,12,500
May ..	100,000	3,87,500	50,000	1,45,313
June ..	100,000	3,75,000	60,000	1,40,625
July ..	100,000	3,87,500	50,000	1,45,313
August ..	50,000	2,48,750	25,000	72,500
September ..	50,000	1,87,500	5,000	14,000
Total ..		27,14,875		8,41,868

Rupees 10,000 per mensem will cover establishments and gratuitous relief in this district. The estimate may therefore be taken at Rupees 9,32,000 in round numbers, of which Rupees 2,41,000 appertain to 1876-77.

10. *North Arcot*.—The Board's previous estimate appears too high for this district also. That of the district officers is incomplete and apparently not reliable. The following are the figures which the Board now adopt:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November		Rs.		Rs.
December	15,000	92,600	15,872	76,599
January	35,000	1,55,000	21,354	41,713
February	25,000	1,75,000	21,354	64,600
March	75,000	2,50,000	20,000	37,187
April	30,000	3,30,000	20,000	1,40,000
May	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
June	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
July	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
August	40,000	1,55,000	20,000	72,666
Total	38,250	28,28,250	10,000	7,75,576

Establishment and gratuitous relief may be taken at Rupees 15,000 per mensem, and the estimates will therefore be Rupees 8,99,000 in all, and Rupees 2,95,000 in 1876-77.

11. *Salem*.—The District officers estimate on relief works 1,71,000, 1,93,000, and 2,20,000 on 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July, and 35,500, 50,000, and 56,000 as recipients of gratuitous relief. The estimate seems very wild, as there will certainly be a large decrease instead of an increase in July. At the present time the numbers are respectively 39,154 and 4,530. The Board take the following figures:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November		Rs.		Rs.
December	25,000	77,400	11,492	5,855
January	35,000	1,55,000	21,354	71,189
February	25,000	1,75,000	21,354	22,600
March	75,000	2,50,000	20,000	75,000
April	30,000	3,30,000	20,000	1,40,000
May	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
June	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
July	40,000	1,55,000	20,000	72,666
Total	38,250	28,28,250	10,000	16,45,074

Gratuitous relief will be heavy in this district, say Rupees 20,000 per mensem, and establishment Rupees 8,000. The total estimate will then be 12,10,000, and in 1876-77 Rupees 4,41,000.

In *Coimbatore* the Board estimated for a maximum of 125,000 coolies, but the district estimate, which seems a careful one, gives 97,500 on the 1st March, 90,500 on the 1st May, and 40,500 on the 1st July. The Board, therefore, estimate as follows, the number, it is to be remembered, being the averages of the months:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November		Rs.		Rs.
December	15,000	92,600	15,872	76,599
January	35,000	1,55,000	21,354	41,713
February	25,000	1,75,000	21,354	64,600
March	75,000	2,50,000	20,000	37,187
April	30,000	3,30,000	20,000	1,40,000
May	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
June	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
July	40,000	1,55,000	20,000	72,666
Total	38,250	28,28,250	10,000	7,75,576

It will suffice to allow Rupees 10,000 per mensem for establishment, &c., and the estimates will be Rupees 10,93,000 and Rupees 3,25,000 in 1876-77.

13. In *Madura* the district officer's estimate of numbers is incomplete. The increase has hitherto been very slow, but the Board anticipate an immediate and heavy rise. They would take figures as follows:—

	Board's former Estimate.		Revised Estimate.	
	Number.	Cost.	Number.	Cost.
Up to November		Rs.		Rs.
December	15,000	92,600	15,872	76,599
January	35,000	1,55,000	21,354	41,713
February	25,000	1,75,000	21,354	64,600
March	75,000	2,50,000	20,000	37,187
April	30,000	3,30,000	20,000	1,40,000
May	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
June	100,000	3,37,500	20,000	1,30,844
July	40,000	1,55,000	20,000	72,666
August	40,000	1,55,000	20,000	72,666
Total	38,250	28,28,250	10,000	7,75,576

Other outlay the Board estimate at Rupees 1,60,000, making a total of Rupees 8,99,000, of which Rupees 1,98,000 will fall in 1876-77.

14. In *Kannur* the outlay is about Rupees 15,000 a month at present. For *Tanjore*, *Tinnevely*, and *Trichinopoly* the Board estimated in December respectively Rupees 1,87,500, Rupees 3,75,000, and Rupees 9,33,250. But the rains of December greatly benefited these districts, especially *Tanjore* and *Trichinopoly*, and in these districts the outlay required will be very small. It will amply suffice to provide Rupees 10,00,000 for the four districts now discussed, of which Rupees 2,50,000 may be taken to 1876-77.

15. The Presidency relief according to the Accountant-General cost Rupees 89,570 in December, and the amount is not likely to be exceeded in subsequent months. The Board would enter Rupees 3,80,000 for 1876-77 and the same amount for 1877-78.

16. The Department of Public Works are spending certain sums independently under the orders of December 12th and 14th, Nos. 3,385 and 2,410, as to which the Board have no exact information. They resolve to enter a sum of Rupees 15,00,000 as outlay by that department, of which Rupees 6,00,000 may be taken to 1876-77. The East Coast Canal outlay will probably amount to Rupees 15,00,000 and the Junction Canal to Rupees 6,00,000, but of these items Government can

judge better than Board. The Board have roughly estimated the cost of tools at fifteen lakhs and entered four lakhs for grain carriage.

17. The following is a summary of the whole:—

	1876-77.	1877-78.		1876-77.	1877-78.
Bellary	RS.	RS.	Providence	RS.	RS.
Kannad	48,12,000	57,82,000	East Coast Canal	2,00,000	3,00,000
Cuddapah	5,72,000	29,31,000	Junction Canal	6,00,000	5,00,000
Nellore	26,00,000	12,34,000	Public Works Department	5,00,000	2,00,000
Chingelput	8,10,000	5,00,000	Tools	5,00,000	3,00,000
North Arcot	2,41,000	6,01,000	Carriage of grain	10,00,000	5,00,000
Salem	2,35,000	7,09,000		2,00,000	2,00,000
Chembalur	4,21,000	7,09,000			
Madam	5,25,000	7,09,000			
Trichinopoly	1,98,000	7,09,000			
Tinnevely		7,09,000			
Kistna					
Tanjore	2,50,000	7,09,000			
				1,40,00,000	1,53,50,000
					5,28,16,000

The estimate thus including all items is likely to be well within that already taken in December (341 lakhs) for district relief works alone. It is possible however that the present estimate may turn out too low for the southern districts in 1877-78.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 337.

ORDER THEREOF, 20th February 1877, No. 635.

The revised estimates will be accepted and telegraphed to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

2. Copy of these Proceedings will also be forwarded to that department for information.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Accountant-General.
" Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Public Works Department.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers.

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