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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1673 A

Press
Mis.

Dated

18. 5. 1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

8th May 1877, No. 1,673-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 165-A. Endorsement of the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Agri and Horti—Famine), dated Simla, the 19th April 1877, No. 371.

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated India Office, London, 15th March 1877, No. 24.

The despatch of Your Excellency in Council, dated 19th January, No. 4 of 1877, forwarding a copy of the instructions to Sir Richard Temple with reference to his mission to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I approve of the policy which you have laid down for the guidance of Sir Richard Temple. The object of saving life is undoubtedly paramount to all other considerations. But it is essential that in pursuing this and your officers should sedulously guard against the danger of inducing the population to rely upon Government aid rather than upon their own industry and thrift. In the interest of the distressed population itself, as well as of the tax-payers generally, you are bound to adopt precautions against indolence or imposition, similar, so far as the circumstances of India will permit, to those with which, in this country, it has always been found necessary to protect the distribution of public relief from abuse.

3. I observe with much satisfaction that your Government is taking into serious consideration the question of the incidence of famine charges, to which your attention was called in my despatch of the 25th November 1875, and I can assure you that in carrying out the principles laid down in that despatch, Your Excellency may count on my cordial support. The practical application of them is not free from difficulty, and I shall await with great interest the communication of the measures by which you propose to carry them into effect.

4. Four minutes on the condition of the affected districts in Bombay, submitted by Sir Richard Temple to your Government, accompany the despatch under reply. These show that the prospect is very serious, especially in Sholapur, but I perceive with satisfaction that Sir Richard Temple bears testimony to the zeal and energy of the authorities in the distressed Collectates. If the first conditions stated in the 5th paragraph of the third minute, dated 12th January, are kept carefully in view and vigilantly acted on, I trust the expenditure in relief operations in the Bombay Presidency may be kept within the limit indicated by Sir Richard Temple of £1,500,000, or perhaps £1,250,000.

5. The requisitions by Sir Richard Temple for an increase in the supervising, and especially in the engineering staff, will, I am confident, have received the best attention of Your Excellency in Council.

6. I approve of the instructions to the Government of Bombay to abstain at present from making or positively promising remissions of land revenue.

Additional Secretary to the Government of India

Revenue Department, 8th May 1877, No. 1,673-A.

7. Your telegrams have informed me of the arrival of Sir Richard Temple at Madras; I may, therefore, expect at an early date the remarks of that officer on the condition and prospects of the districts in that Presidency which have been so severely affected by the present calamity.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(By order,)

(Signed) F. C. HOPE,
Addl. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 165-B. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1877; No. 1,673-A.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Financial Department.

Ed. W. J. Lewis

Additional Secretary to the Government

No. 24, dated India Office, London, 15th March 1877.

From—The Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

The despatch of Your Excellency in Council, dated 19th January, No. 4 of 1877, forwarding a copy of the instructions to Sir Richard Temple with reference to his mission to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I approve of the policy which you have laid down for the guidance of Sir Richard Temple. The object of saving life is undoubtedly paramount to all other considerations. But it is essential that in pursuing this end your officers should sedulously guard against the danger of inducing the population to rely upon Government aid rather than upon their own industry and thrift. In the interest of the distressed population itself, as well as of the tax-payers generally, you are bound to adopt precautions against indolence or imposition, similar, so far as the circumstances of India will permit, to those with which, in this country, it has always been found necessary to protect the distribution of public relief from abuse.

3. I reserve with much satisfaction that your Government is taking into serious consideration the question of the incidence of famine charges, to which your attention was called in my despatch of the 25th November, 1875, and I can assure you that in carrying out the principles laid down in that despatch, Your Excellency may count on my cordial support. The practical application of them is not free from difficulty, and I shall await with great interest the communication of the measures by which you propose to carry them into effect.

4. Four minutes on the condition of the affected districts in Bombay, submitted by Sir Richard Temple to your Government, accompany the despatch under reply. These show that the prospect is very serious, especially in Sholapur, but I perceive with satisfaction that Sir Richard Temple bears testimony to the zeal and energy of the authorities in the distressed Collectorates. If the first conditions stated in the 5th paragraph of the third minute, dated 12th January, are kept carefully in view and vigilantly acted on, I trust the expenditure in relief operations in the Bombay Presidency may be kept within the limit indicated by Sir Richard Temple of £1,500,000, or perhaps £1,750,000.

5. The requisitions by Sir Richard Temple for an increase in the supervising, and especially in the engineering staff, will, I am confident, have received the best attention of Your Excellency in Council.

6. I approve of the instruction to the Government of Bombay to abstain at present from making or positively promising remissions of land revenue.

7. Your telegrams have informed me of the arrival of Sir Richard Temple at Madras; I may, therefore, expect at an early date the remarks of that officer on the condition and prospects of the districts in that Presidency which have been so severely affected by the present calamity.

No 371 / Agri & Hort
Famine

Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce.

Simla, 19th April 1877.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

By order

W. H. F.

Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

78. 2928
1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.
Farming.

FROM

H. I. S. MAJ. OF STATE FOR INDIA.

No. 24

1877

Date 15th March 1877.

15/3/77
25

Shiboo

8 June 1877

Survey.

Acknowledges with remarks the receipt of despatch No. 4 of 1877, dated 19th January, relating to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, and approves of the policy laid down for the guidance of Sir Richard Temple, and of the instructions given to the Bombay Government to abstain at present from making or positively promising remissions of land revenue.