Secrt. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 24.

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1763A Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 19-5-1977 97 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

1763
1763A

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

# REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th May 1877, No. 1,763-A.

**Famine Relief.**

Read the following paper :—

No. 383-A. From J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Suruboo, 13th May 1877, Extra No. 1,054.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the result of a careful examination of a gang of 646 relief coolies made yesterday evening by Mr. Weekes, B.C.S., and myself.

2. Their condition proved to be such that I consider that I should not wait for my communication to pass through the Board of Revenue (to which a copy of this letter has been sent), but should address Government direct.

3. I trust that in doing this I shall not be held to have unnecessarily transgressed existing orders.

4. The classification followed in the accompanying statement is that adopted in my letter, Extra No. 960, dated 26th ultimo, embodied in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,089, dated 5th instant.

5. I have, by careful inquiry, not only from the coolies and head coolies, but also in surrounding villages, ascertained that ragi has not been, for the last ten or fifteen days, obtainable by the coolies, and that they are almost entirely living upon rice (the price of which is four Cuddapah measures per rupee), aided largely by devadari leaves, which I found in large quantities with a gang of 611 coolies seen by me in the morning, but of which, owing to the lateness of the hour, I could not make a detailed inspection. I, however, ranked them all up and went slowly down the lines questioning several. I set them down as a very indifferent lot.

6. The inspection mentioned in paragraph 1 of this letter shows distinctly the effect of feeding coolies upon the value of 1 lb. of rice *plus* the money allowance fixed by Government. Mr. MacCartie saw pretty nearly the same set of people in February last and put them down as being in good condition, and the Tahsildar, who is a sharp and observant man, inspected them about three weeks since, when he considered them in much better condition than I found them. The deterioration has been rapid, but, from what the coolies said to me, they had not had enough to eat even when they could get ragi.

7. The heading " good " will show how very few were considered by me fit for real work. The rest were, in a greater or less degree, going down hill. Many were fine men of the ryot class who, not long ago, were strapping fine fellows, but who are now losing, as I ascertained by feeling them, all hardness of muscle and

roundness of form. The women were in equally bad condition, and several of the very bad were little more than animated skeletons. The state of the children was very indifferent. Some thirty persons were taken out of the gang and put upon gratuitous relief. They were utterly unfit for any work.

8. I have looked into the matter thoroughly and have satisfied myself that the coolies have not been cheated, and that the 3 Pies payment for small children has been availed of to a reasonable extent. Mr. Weekes I found had, under the [illegible] of the cheapest grain (ragi) should be taken as the standard [illegible] wages, [illegible] that the men got 1 Anna 3 Pies instead of 1 Anna 5 Pies, but this would not account fully for the falling off that I observed.

9. This is, I am perfectly convinced, due to their having to live upon rice and to the allowance being insufficient. The coolies here are, all through, falling off in condition to a most serious extent. The same state of things will, I am, from an experience of ten out of the eleven taluqs of the district, certain, arise in other places as soon as the supply of ragi grows scarce, and I would, therefore, most earnestly urge upon Government the necessity for at once reconsidering the present scale of wages.

10. I can assure Government that I am not in the least carried away by my feelings; I have been now so long at famine work, and have seen so much misery and so many sickening sights, that I can consider matters coolly. I have no hesitation in saying that a continuance of the present wages for another fortnight to the coolies seen by me yesterday will render quite half of them fit for only gratuitous relief.

11. I have considered it necessary, in the exercise of the discretion given me, to order that the gangs to which I have referred above shall be, pending the further orders of Government, placed upon the following rates:—Men 2 Annas, women 1 Anna 6 Pies, children 10 Pies, and nursing women 2 Annas each. The [illegible] percentage of those stated as indifferent, which I think that it would not be advisable to except them from the effect of this order.

12. I may state, for the information of Government, that the work upon which I have made the inspection now reported is the road from Vempalle to Lakireddipalle *via* Suruboo; that it lies in the Pulivendla Taluq; and that it runs from the point where the Papugni river breaks through the hills, three miles south of Vempalle, up the valley lying between the Sheshachellam Hills and the first range in the sub-division south of it. The country is not at all badly off for water, there being spring channels and channels from the Papugni, but the water in them has sunk so low that it cannot, except in a few cases, be raised for cultivation. There is a sprinkling of crops being raised under wells, but the ground is sandy and inferior. There is no cholera about, and only a little small-pox.

---

*P.S.*—Since writing the above I have obtained from the Tahsildar the exact figures of his last inspection. He saw 1,147 men, women, and children, and the percentage of those set down as indifferent was 35. This included my "indifferent," "bad," and "very bad," and the Tahsildar admitted that his examination, which was made on the 18th April, was not nearly so close or exact as mine.

*Revenue Department*, 19*th May* 1877, *No.* 1,763-*A*.

1763A
2

Enclosure No. 1.

Statement showing the Number and Condition of Relief Coolies in the Pulivendla Taluq examined by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah during the month of May 1877.

| Station. | | Number of Coolies examined. | In good condition. | | | Percentage. | | | In indifferent condition. | | | Percentage. | | | In bad condition. | | | Percentage. | | | In very bad condition. | | | Percentage. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. |
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Suruboo ... ... ... ... ... | | 152 | 375 | 119 | 6 | 12½ | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 70 | 215 | 64 | 46 | 97 | 64 | 61 | 133 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 33 | 6 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 |

| Station. | | In fair condition. | | | Percentage. | | | In bad condition. | | | Percentage. | | | In very bad condition. | | | Percentage. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. | Men. | Women. | Children. |
| 1 | | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Suruboo ... ... ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(Signed) F. PRICE,
Acting Collector.

*Revenue Department*, 19*th May* 1877, *No.* 1,763-*A*.

No. 383-B. ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1877, No. 1,763-A.

Miscellaneous.

MR. PRICE's action in raising the wages of the gangs at Suruboo is fully approved.

2. Separate orders relative to general alteration in the scale of wages on works will issue shortly.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Cuddapah.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Erd. A. F. Goodall.

1763/4

Cuddapah Collector's Office

Extract No. 1054 Camp Surnoor Pulivendla Taluq

15th May 1877.

From J F Price Esquire

Acting Collector of Cuddapah

To J H Garstin Esquire

Additional Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government the result of a careful examination of a gang of 646 Relief Coolies, made yesterday evening by Mr. Nukies B. C. S. and myself.

2. Their condition proved to be such that I consider that I should not wait for my communication to pass through the Board of Revenue (to which a copy of this letter has been sent), but should address Government direct.

3. I trust that in doing this, I shall not be held to have unnecessarily transgressed existing orders.

1763/4

V

Collr. of Ntr. Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The COMMISSIONER OF CUDDAPAH

Dated Nellore, 19th May 1877.

Rect. 21st do.

C.O. Circular Ntr., No. 1763-A

M A Y.

Nos. 383-A. 383-B.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 1,163-4.

*Relief Coolies at Surnoor in Cuddapah District.*

—Fully approving Mr. Price's action in raising the wages of the —, and intimating that separate orders relative to general alteration in the scale of wages on works will issue shortly.

4. The classification followed in the accompanying statement is that adopted in my letter Extra No 960 dated 26th Ultimo, embodied in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No 2089 dated 6th Instant.

I [illegible] carefully, comparing not only from the coolies and Head Coolies, but also in surrounding villages, ascertained that ragi has not been, for the last 10 or 15 days, obtainable by the coolies and that they are almost entirely living upon rice, the price of which is 4 Cuddapah measures per rupee, aided largely by Devadari leaves which I found in large quantities with a gang of 611 coolies, seen by me in the morning, but of which owing to the lateness of the hour I could not make a detailed inspection. I however ranked them all up and went slowly down the lines, questioning several. I set them down as a very indifferent lot.

6. The inspection mentioned in para 1 of this letter shows distinctly the effect of feeding coolies upon the value of 1 lb of rice plus the money allowance fixed by Government. Mr Isaac Carter saw pretty nearly the same set of people in February last and put them down as being in good condition, and the Tahsildar who is a sharp and observant man inspected them about 3 weeks since when he considered them in much better condition than I found them. The deterioration has been rapid, but from what the coolies said to me they had not had enough to eat even when they could get ragi.

7. The heading "good" will show how very few were considered by me fit for real work. The rest were in a greater or less degree, going down hill. Many were fine men of the ryot-class who not long ago were strapping fine fellows, but who are now losing, as I ascertained by feeling them, all hardness of muscle and

roundness of form. The women were in
equally bad condition and several of the very
bad were little more than animated skeletons.
The state of the children was very indifferent.
Some 30 persons were taken out of the gang
into relief. They were
utterly unfit for any work.

8. I have looked into the matter
thoroughly and have satisfied myself that
the coolies have not been cheated and
that the three pice payment for small
children has been availed of to a reasonable
extent. Mr Beeke, I found, had under
the impression that the price of the cheapest
grain (ragi) should be taken as the standard,
reduced the wages so that the men got
a D. a D.
1-3 instead of 1.5, but this would not account
fully for the falling off that I observed.

9. This is, I am perfectly convinced, due to their
having to live upon rice and to the allowance
being insufficient. The coolies I see are, all
through, falling off in condition to a most

1263/3

regions extent. The same state of things
will, I am, from an experience of ten out of
the eleven Talugs of the District, certain
— arise in other places as soon as the
supply of ragi grows scarce and I would
therefore most earnestly [illegible]
— mend the necessity for, at once, recon-
— sidering the present scale of wages.

10. I can assure Government that
I am not in the least carried away by
my feelings, I have been now so long
in the service and have seen so much
misery and so many sickening sights
that I can consider matters coolly. I have
no hesitation in saying, that a continuance
of the present wages for another fortnight
to the coolies seen by me yesterday, will
render quite half of them fit for only
gratuitous relief.

11. I have considered it necessary, in
the exercise of the discretion given me, to
order that the gangs to which I have
referred above, shall be, pending the further

Orders of Government, placed upon the following rates.

Men 2 annas, Women 1 anna 6 pies, Children 10 pies and nursing women 2 annas each. The per centage of those in good condition I cannot say that it would not be advisable to except them from the effect of this Order.

12. I may state for the information of Government that the work upon which I have made the inspection now reported is the road from Vengalle to Lakireddipalle via Surabboo, — that it lies in the Pulivendla Taluq and that it runs from the point where the Papagni river breaks through the Hills, three miles South of Vempalle, up the valley lying between the Sheshachellam Hills and the first range in the Sub Division South of it. The country is not at all badly off for water, there being spring channels and Channels from the Papagni, but the water in them has sunk so low that it cannot, except in a few cases, be raised for cultivation. There is a sprinkling of crops being raised under wells, but the ground is sandy and inferior. There is no cholera about, and only

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt Servant
Fredk Nicholl
Ag Collector

P.S. Since writing the above I have compared the Tahsildars the exact figures of his last inspection he saw 1147. men women and children and the percentage of those set down as indifferent was 35. This included my "Indifferent" "Bad" and very Bad and Mr Tahsildar admitted that his examination, which was made on the 16th April, was not nearly so close or exact as mine

Fredk Nicholl

Encl
K No 1174

Statement showing the number and condition of Relief Colliers of Cussapoke during the month of May 1877.

| Station | Number of colliers examined | | | In good condition | | | Per centage | | | In fair condition | | | Per centage | | | In indifferent condition | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
| Scarboo | 152 | 375 | 119 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 70 | 215 | 64 | 46 | 57 | 54 | 61 | |

Exd

5

Coolies in the Pulivendla Taluq examined by the Acting

1763A/8

| different ition | | Per Centage | | | In bad condition | | | Per centage | | | In very bad condition | | | Per centage | | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | Men | Women | Children | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35. |
| 123 | 40 | 40 | 32. | 30 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | |

T. H. Price
Ag Collector

1763 9

Cuddapah Collector's Office
Extra No. 1054. Camp Jumboo Pulivendla
Taluq.
13th May 1877.

From

T. H. Price Esquire
Acting Collector of Cuddapah

To.

J. H. Garstin Esquire
Additional Secretary to Govt.
Fort Saint George.

Sir.

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government the result of a careful examination of a gang of 646 Relief coolies, made yesterday evening by Mr. Weeks J. C. I. and myself.

2. Their condition proved to be such that I consider that I should not wait for my communication to pass through the Board of Revenue (to which a copy of this letter has been sent), but should address Govt. direct.

3. I trust that, in doing this I shall

P.T.

not be held to have unnecessarily transgressed existing orders.

4. The classification followed in the accompanying statement is that adopted in my letter Extra No. 960 dated 26th Ultimo embodied in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 2089 dated 5th Instant.

5. I have by careful enquiry, not only from the coolies and Head coolies but also in surrounding villages, ascertained that ragi has not been for the last ten or fifteen days, obtainable by the coolies and that they are almost entirely living upon rice (the price of which is 4 Cuddapah measures per rupee) aided largely by Devadari leaves which I found in large quantities with a gang of 611 coolies seen by me in the morning but of which owing to the lateness of the hour I could not make a detailed inspection. I however ranked them all up and went slowly down the lines questioning several. I set them down as a very indifferent lot.

6. The inspection mentioned in para 1 of this letter shows distinctly the

the effect of feeding coolies upon the value of 1 lb of rice plus the money allowance fixed by Government. Mr. Mac Cartie saw pretty nearly the same set of people in February last and put them down as being in good condition, and the Tahsildar who is a sharp and observant man inspected them about 3 weeks since when he considered them in much better condition than I found them. The deterioration has been rapid, but from what the coolies said to me they had not had enough to eat even when they could get ragi.

7. The heading "good" will show how very few were considered by me fit for real work. The rest were in a greater or less degree, going downhill. Many were fine men of the ryot class who not long ago were strapping fine fellows, but who are now losing, as I ascertained by feeling them, all hardness of muscle and roundness of form. The women were in equally bad

condition

condition and several of the very bad were little more than animated skeletons. The state of the children was very indifferent. Some 30 persons were taken out of the gang and put upon gratuitous relief. They were utterly unfit for any work.

8. I have looked into the matter thoroughly and have satisfied myself that the coolies have not been cheated and that the three pice payment for small children has been availed of to a reasonable extent. Mr Weekes, I found had under the impression that the price of the cheapest grain (ragi) should be taken as the standard, reduced the wages so that the men got 1a 3p instead of 1a 5p but this would not account fully for the falling off that I observed.

9. This is, I am perfectly convinced due to their having to live upon rice and to the allowance being insufficient. The coolies here are, all through, falling off in condition to a most serious extent.

The

1733

11

The same state of things will, I am from an experience of ten out of the eleven Talugs of the District, certain – arise in other places as soon as the supply of ragi grown scarce and I would therefore most earnestly urge upon Government the necessity for, at once, reconsidering the present scale of wages.

10. I can assure Government that I am not in the least carried away by my feelings, I have been now so long at Famine work and have seen so much misery and so many sickening sights that I can consider matters coolly. I have no hesitation in saying that a continuance of the present wages for another fortnight to the coolies seen by me yesterday will render quite half of them fit for only gratuitous relief

11. I have considered it necessary,

in

in the exercise of the discretion given me to order that the gangs to which I have referred above shall be pending the further orders of Government placed upon the following rates. Men 2 annas, Women 1 anna. 6 pies children 10 pies and nursing women 2 annas each. The percentage of those in good condition is so very small that I think that it would not be advisable to except them from the effect of this order.

12. I may state for the information of Govt that the work upon which I have made the inspection now reported is the road from Veinpalle to Sakireddipalle via Surveboo, — that it lies in the Pulevendla taluq and that it runs from the point where the Papagni river breaks through the hills, three miles south of Vempalle, up the valley lying between the

1763

Sheshachellum hills and the first range in the subdivision south of it. The country is not at all badly off for water there being spring channels and channels from the Papagni, but the water in them has sunk so low that it cannot, except in a few cases be raised for cultivation. There is a sprinkling of crops being raised under wells, but the ground is sandy and inferior. There is no cholera about and only a little small pox.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant.
(Sd) Frederick Price.
Sg. Collector.

P.S. Since writing the above I have obtained from the Tahsildar the exact figures of his last inspection. He saw 1147 men, women, and children and the percentage of those returned as indifferent was 35. This included my "indifferent" "bad" and "very bad"

and

The Tahsildar admitted that his examination, which was made on the 18th of April was not nearly so close or exact as mine

(Sd) J.F.P.
Ag Collector