

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 5-5-1989
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4028	REV.	Press.
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	19.	7.	1877. 197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1877, No. 1,972-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 244-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nagalore, 16th April 1877, No. 277.

WITH reference to the Government official memorandum (confidential), No. 277, dated 7th February last,* calling for a report as to the probable positions

* Copy enclosed.

of the ryots at the opening of the next cultivation season in regard to seed-grain, I have the honor to state that generally it may be supposed that ryots paying an assessment above Rs. 30 have seed-grain for next year and those who cultivate wet lands under the Toongabudra river have paddy seed, and indeed seed of all kinds sufficient for their requirements. The position of the other ryots is not very encouraging, for they have neither the seed nor the means to purchase it.

2. As regards cotton seed, the sowing of which bears a large proportion to the total sowings of other grain, it will all have to be imported, for the seed is required to be freshly picked; seed a year old even will not germinate properly.

3. The well-to-do section of the agricultural population however doubtless have the usual reserve, from whom the poorer ones can take loans to be returned in kind or its equivalent money value. Many of the holders of very considerable stocks that will outlast the famine will combine the avocations of farmer and money-lender. After sowing their own lands they will have both the means and inclination to advance to their poorer neighbours a sufficiency of seed.

4. The terms of such advances will, I suppose, be severer than usual. The smaller so-called ryots are normally in such a state of servitude of debts to the substantial landholders, that I do not think their position will eventually be worse than before. But I fear that many who, before the recent failure of crops, enjoyed the position of independent farmers will drop into the grade of mere agricultural laborers.

From the same Officer, dated Ramandroog, 2nd June 1877.

REFERRING to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,574, dated the 9th April 1877, I have the honor to report that I have asked each divisional officer to state roughly what sums he is likely to require for advances for seed-grain and for the purchase of cattle.

2. I have not yet received replies from all, but I do not like to wait further. I would request that the Board will be pleased to recommend that a sum of five lakhs be for the present placed at my disposal, and I earnestly request that advances be allowed generally for the purchase of cattle as well as for grain at the divisional officers' discretion.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government, as the Board do not consider that G.O., 5th April 1877, No. 1,336, enables them to dispose of this application, which relates to advances for the purchase of cattle as well as for the purchase of seed.

2. The Board much doubt whether any advances for either purpose are really necessary, and they are most decidedly of opinion that before Government embark in any such operations, much stronger proof of their necessity should be awaited. They believe that there is an ample stock of seed-grain in the country and that the poorer ryots who have not got any will have no difficulty in obtaining it, and on no very onerous terms from the more well-to-do cultivators who have it. Such is the almost unanimous testimony of the district officers in the reports on the subject which have been communicated to the Board. In his letter of the 16th April, No. 277, read above, Mr. Master himself expressed the opinion that the poorer ryots would be able to obtain a sufficiency of seed though on terms somewhat severer than usual.

3. It would be now impossible to introduce from elsewhere any large supplies of seed-grain, and it is indeed doubtful whether if this were done the ryots would use the imported seed. Reliance must therefore be placed in the main on the stocks of seed in the possession of the richer ryots; and the poorer ones who may have none and who have any chance of being able to cultivate successfully will be able to borrow from those who have it. Evidently the well-to-do ryots of the village will be better able to judge of the solvency and capacity to cultivate of those who have to borrow seed-grain than any Government officers would be.

4. The resources of the richer ryots will, the Board have no doubt, be utilized this season to the full, whether on their own lands or on those of their neighbours over whom they will thus acquire a hold; and though the breadth of cultivation will doubtless be in next season to some extent contracted as compared with ordinary years, the Board doubt whether, under the operation of the proposed advances from Government, it would be materially increased. The probable result will be that anticipated by Mr. Master, viz., that some of those puttadars who have hitherto lived from hand to mouth will cease to be independent cultivators and will become agricultural laborers. Opinions may differ whether this is a result to be deprecated.

5. As to cattle, the case appears to the Board to be still stronger. All districts have suffered, and there will be no surplus of stock fit for agriculture exposed for sale. The non-agricultural stock have perished in larger numbers than the ploughing cattle, and such of them as remain are debilitated and unbroken to the plough, and but few could be fitted to be used for cultivating purposes in the coming season. Of the ploughing bullocks which remain, every beast will be fully used.

6. The Board for these reasons are of opinion that advances for the purchase of seed and cattle are of doubtful necessity and of doubtful advantage, and they are at any rate premature as yet. If it be now published abroad that Government are prepared to give advances in money to puttadars for the purpose, under whatever restrictions which can be devised, there will be no end to the applications and enormous sums will have to be disbursed. Of these, a large portion will be found ultimately irrecoverable. If seasonable rain falls within the next fortnight, cultivation will at once commence, and it will be easy to gauge the extent to which the considerations urged by the Board in the preceding paragraphs are entitled to weight. If the later months are favorable, land sown in July will still be safe to yield a crop; and it will be time enough in the middle of that month, should the cultivation returns for June prove the necessity of the measure, to inaugurate the system of money advances for seed. Such a system needs little preparation and can be started immediately on the issue of the order. It will be pretty certain that all whose own resources enable them to cultivate will, if the season permits, have commenced to cultivate by that time, and the delay in making the advance will operate as a most efficient system of selection of recipients.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 244-B. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1877, No. 1,972-A.

Miscellaneous.

The Government concur with the Board in opinion that there is no present necessity for making advances to ryots to buy either seed-grain or ploughing cattle.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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Revenue Dept

No 3214.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 10th July 1877

Read the following:-

No. 532.

From
The Collectors of Dellaray

To
The Secretary to the Board
of Revenue Madras

Sir, I have the honor, with reference to the latter part of the Proceedings of the Board No. 3058 dated the 28th Ultmo. to state that none of the advances made in the Taluk of Chidambaram have been for the purchase of bullocks.

These were all disbursed under

Govt. of (1877) Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

cc.

cc.

cc.

Dated June, 12th.

Issued in M.S. 16th.

Printed 25th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 12th June 1877, No. 1972-A.

JUNE.

Nos. 244-A-244-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1683-A.

Advances to Ryots for purchase of Seed-grain and ploughing Cattle in Dellaray District.—Concurring with the Board of Revenue in opinion that there is no present necessity for making —

under the Land Improvement

my father's
Office - Hannon
Haidrup Station
2nd July 1877

I have
@ J. G. Master
Collector

Submitted for
the information of Govern-
ment in continuation
of the Proceedings quoted.

(True Copy as per)

W. L. Allen
Agent

The Adm. Secy to Govt. Rd.

W. L. Allen

Adm. Secy to Govt. Rd.

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Miss G. 19 July 1877 N 4028

Successors of the
Baroness of the
Duchy of the
Reed 11/11/11

10-7-77-8

19 July 1877

for information of
your letter from 6th
of July 1877 regarding
that number of the
successors in
the Duchy of the
Baroness of the
Duchy of the
Reed 11/11/11