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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No: 4472	~~Press.~~ / Mis.
Dated 11-8-1877	197 .

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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

7th August 1877, No. 2060.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 42. *Proceedings of the Government of India, Financial Department (Accounts), dated Simla, 12th July* 1877, *No.* 1767.

Read the following letter from the Hon. E. W. RAVENSCROFT, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated 25th June 1877, No. 2875 :—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1054, dated 4th instant, on the subject of the appropriation of Provincial and Local Funds for Famine expenditure, and in reply to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council will gladly accept the principle therein explained, and is assured that the Viceroy in Council will give liberal consideration to the representations which will be made hereafter on this subject.

Ordered that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce for information, and that a copy of this letter and of the one to which it is a reply be communicated to other Local Governments and Administrations for information.

(Signed) R. H. HOLLINGBERY,
Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

[Annexure to Financial Order No. 1767 of 1877.]

From R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated 4th June 1877, No. 1054.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, No. 1914, dated the 17th April, I am directed to say that the principle upon which the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 1826, dated 28th March 1877, is based was, as appears upon its face, adopted during the operations undertaken for the relief of the people of Bengal in the Famine of 1873-74.

2. It seemed to the Governor-General in Council then, and seems still, that when a great calamity is confined to any particular province it is necessary and right that all provincial and local resources should be exhausted in contending against it before any demands are made upon the General Treasury of the Empire, and, further, that the Government of the Province is bound to take care that this principle is effectually applied, and to submit to every possible sacrifice in order to reduce to the utmost its ultimate demands upon the Imperial Revenues.

3. The extent to which provincial resources shall be held responsible for charges incurred on such occasions from the Imperial Treasury has yet to be determined, but the general principle that some such responsibility must be enforced has, as the Government of Bombay is aware, been recognized by the Secretary of State and by the Government of India.

4. The duty required from the Governments of Madras and Bombay by the Resolution against which the Government of Bombay now remonstrates was accepted, without controversy, by the Government of Bengal, and the accounts show that a sum of Rupees 12,70,476 was contributed from the provincial and local resources of Bengal towards the cost of the operations of 1873-74. The Government of Bombay will probably, on reconsideration, admit that, although these contributions doubtless pressed heavily upon provincial and local resources, the Government of India was right to require them, and the Government of Bengal right to make them ; and that the rule should hereafter be always observed that Local Governments shall bear from provincial and local resources as large a share as possible of any expenditure incurred upon the operations for the relief of the people in time of famine.

5. The Government of India on its part, while it would not think it right to relieve the Provincial and Local Funds of other Provinces any more than it did those of Bengal, from any part of the burden which they can properly bear, or from the inconvenience and sacrifices thence resulting, will yet take care, as it did in the case of Bengal, that these funds are not left, at the end of the operations, insolvent. It must not, however, be assumed that, because it was considered right, upon this principle, to assure to the Government of Bengal an unencumbered balance of Rupees 5,00,000 at the end of the famine of 1873-74, it will be necessary to leave as large a sum in the Provincial and Local Treasuries of the less populous and less extensive Presidencies.

6. In settling the accounts of the Government of India with that of Bengal, the Governor-General in Council did not appropriate any part of the balances belonging by law or equity to the District and Local Funds. The five lakhs of Rupees left with the Government of Bengal was the aggregate amount placed at credit of that Government in its Provincial Treasury including the Local Funds which were by law and equity at the disposal of the Local Government at its discretion for provincial purposes. The balances of the district and other Appropriated Local Funds were not absorbed, but were left in the possession of the Committees apart from the settlement which left Rupees 5,00,000 at the disposal of the Provincial Government. These bodies were, however, required to contribute to the general need so far as the law allowed them, and so far as it was considered, in each case, just to demand contributions from them. Of the total sum of Rupees 12,70,746 contributed from Bengal provincial and local sources, Rupees 2,50,000 was thus paid by these separate District and other Local Committees.

7. The same course should be followed by the Government of Bombay in the present emergency. The Government of India cannot require, and has not asked, the Governments of Madras and Bombay to demand from any District, Municipal, or other Local Committee any contribution towards the great expenditure for the relief of the present distress which is now proceeding which the law does not authorize, or which, even though it might be legal, local circumstances may make inequitable. But it is undoubtedly the duty of the Local Governments to exact from every such local body the utmost contribution towards meeting the cost of relieving the local distress which may legally and equitably be required from it.

8. The principle seems to the Government of India to be clearly right that the distress should first be met from local resources so far as is possible, and that district resources should only be responsible when local resources fail, provincial resources when district resources fail, and imperial resources last of all.

9. The Governor-General in Council trusts that the principle thus explained will now be accepted by the Government of Bombay as reasonable and right. His Excellency in Council will be prepared, on his part, to give liberal consideration to the representations which he will expect to receive hereafter as to the amount to be left at the credit of the Local Government and as to the contributions which should be exacted from the District and other Local Funds or resources.

Copy forwarded to the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce for information.

No. 43. ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1877, No. 2060.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat and to the Board of Revenue in continuation of G.O., dated 1st May 1877, No. 1390.

2. The Board of Revenue will be requested to furnish Government with a statement of the amount of Local Funds which have been expended on works calculated to relieve Famine.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.
" Military Department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department

No 3616

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 7th.

Issued

Read. Encl.

G.O., 7th August 1877, No. 2060.

AUGUST.

Nos. 42-43.

Famine Relief.—Endorsement of Government of India, communicating correspondence on the subject of the appropriation of Provincial and Local Funds for Famine expenditure, communicated to the Departments concerned; and the Board of Revenue requested to furnish a statement of the amount of Local Funds which have been expended on works calculated to relieve Famine.

With Order

11 August 1877 No 4472 sent

No 4472

Communicated to the Public Works and Special Commissioner in connection with G.O. 14 May 1877 No 2719.

11 August 1877

Sd/ C. G. Master

Secy to Govt