Secrt. I (i)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 14

(2) Date of repair 17.3.1972

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	748 A	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	19. 2. 1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1488/1

Rec.

Shall appear for the respondents on Tuesday sitting at the Office of the Govt. Agents for Mr R. Temple & communicate to Mr Dickens relative to petition for relief.

The Bd. Rs. may if requisite be warned but Mr W. Short will state that he is attending Exp. Com. under Govt. & Mr Dickens for a Ref. R.?

4/2/11

Famine Relief in Tinnevelly Dt.

For Rev.

Revenue Dept.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 12th February 1877.
No. 589

Read the following

From A. J. Stuart Esquire
Acting Collector.

To H. E. Stokes Esquire
As Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to report on the famine relief arrangements in this District for the week ending the 27th Ins. Forms required, I have arranged, shall be submitted to you direct by the Treasury Deputy Collector to save time as I am in Camp. I have not received copies of them yet but I believe that there is not much difference between the figures of this and the week before.

2nd The chief event of the week were the reduction of the wages on relief works from 2 as to 1½ as per diem in consideration of the fall of prices. The effect

effect of this in reducing the numbers employed will probably be perceptible in the next weekly return; at all events it has had and will have a very useful effect in checking the influx of fresh applicants for work.

3. The next important point is that it has been ascertained by the Collector and District Engineer that the Nandyal taluq is not at present in so distressed a state as to require relief works. Several were opened but no coolies would work at the rate offered. It is however afraid on all hands that this cannot last long and I have no doubt that the numbers for whom we shall have to find employment in April, May and June will be large in all the distressed Talugs Nandyal included.

4. In accordance with the views expressed in the directions to Sir R. Temple and published in the Gazette Extraordinary I have requested each Division Officer to organize a system for watching the kists closely and drafting to relief works and to gratuitous relief all persons found in danger of Starvation, and at the same time for the future not to attempt to relieve distress only but to admit to the works only such as there is reason to believe are really pressed for food and suffering from want. There can be no doubt that when really pressed the people will be ready to accept the low wages offered to them and will flock to the Tahsildar for work. In the interest of economy I desire to keep them off as long as possible consistently with safety. We have already a sufficient quantity of Estimates and works ready and I have lately submitted a list of road works and estimates to the Board as a reserve to fall back upon in case of necessity we are therefore prepared.

5. Each Division Officer has discretion as to the system of payment he pursues, but all are exacting a sufficient task in return for the wages given, the Standard being 2½ yards for a man ½ of this for a woman and ¼ for a child. It is reported that this Standard was been generally reached. This much within the ordinary days work of a coolly employed on piece work, at the same time it is calculated to give a result about equivalent to from 9 pies to 1 anna per

per cubic yard of soft earth. The Standard task for hard soils and gravels is discontinued.

6. — Payments are made for the most part daily and in money, but the system of weekly contracts is being tried, a weeks wages being given in advance on a printed form of contract to work for a week. It is too soon yet to tell how this system will answer, but if it does it will be a great advantage when large numbers have to be employed. I hope the Board will permit me to give it a fair trial.

7. — All cooly labour employed is given and registered at certain fixed centres either Tahsildar's Head Quarters or that of one of his Inspectors and there told off in gangs to particular works. No coolies being allowed to work except from such centres. Officers are then able to tell at any moment how many coolies there are on each work and to provide fresh work for them as each is completed. All village officers have strict orders to send in to such centres any persons in their villages who are suffering from want and relieve them if necessary for a few days until work is done. I have authorized a moderate establishment to each Revenue Inspector to secure every village being visited and the arrangements explained at frequent intervals. Personal responsibility for the lives of the people is being impressed upon all concerned at the same time with strict economy.

I have &c.
S.G. A.J. Stuart
Collector.

Tinnevelly Collector's Cutcherry
Ettiapuram 31st Jany 1877.

Recorded.

/Precis by Extract/
S.G. H.E. Stokes
Acting Secretary.

To The Collector of Tinnevelly.

/Forwarded/

for Orders
Acting Secretary.

The add. Secy to Govt R.D.

Famine Relief.

No. 620 A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1877, No. 589 :—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ettiapuram, 31st January 1877, No. C.

I HAVE the honor to report on the famine relief arrangements in this district for the week ending the 27th. The forms required I have arranged shall be submitted to you direct by the Treasury Deputy Collector to save time as I am in camp. I have not received copies of them yet, but I believe that there is not much difference between the figures of this and the week before.

2. The chief events of the week were the reduction of the wages on relief works from 2 Annas to $1\frac{1}{2}$ Annas per diem in consideration of the fall of prices. The effect of this in reducing the numbers employed will probably be perceptible in the next weekly return ; at all events it has had, and will have, a very useful effect in checking the influx of fresh applicants for work.

3. The next important point is that it has been ascertained by the Sub-Collector and District Engineer that the Nanguneri Taluq is not at present in so distressed a state as to require relief works ; several were opened but no coolies would work at the rate offered. It is, however, agreed on all hands that this cannot last long, and I have no doubt that the numbers for whom we shall have to find employment in April, May, and June will be large in all the distressed taluqs, Nanguneri included.

4. In accordance with the views expressed in the directions to Sir R. Temple and published in the Gazette Extraordinary, I have requested each division officer to organize a system for watching the villages closely and drafting to relief works and to gratuitous relief all persons found in danger of starvation, and at the same time for the future not to attempt to relieve distress only, but to admit to the works only such as there is reason to believe are really pressed for food and suffering from want. There can be no doubt that when really pressed the people will be ready to accept the low wages offered to them and will flock to the Tahsildar for work. In the interest of economy I desire to keep them off as long as possible consistently with safety. We have already a sufficient quantity of estimates and works ready, and I have lately submitted a list of road works and estimates to the Board as a reserve to fall back upon in case of necessity ; we are therefore prepared.

5. Each division officer has discretion as to the system of payment he pursues, but all are exacting a sufficient task in return for the wages given, the standard being $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards for a man, $\frac{1}{2}$ of this for a woman, and $\frac{1}{4}$ for a child. It is reported that this standard has been generally reached. It is much within the ordinary day's work of a cooly employed on piece-work ; at the same time it is calculated to give a result about equivalent to from 7 Pies to 1 Anna per cubic yard of soft earth. The standard task for hard soils and gravels is discretional.

6. Payments are made for the most part daily and in money, but the system of weekly contracts is being tried, a week's wages being given in advance on a printed form of contract to work for a week. It is too soon yet to tell how this system will answer, but if it succeed it will be a great advantage when large numbers have to be employed. I hope the Board will permit me to give it a fair trial.

7. All coolies to whom employment is given are first registered at certain fixed centres, either Tahsildar's head-quarter or that of one of his Inspectors, and there told off in gangs to particular works; no coolies being admitted to a relief work except from such centres. Officers are then able to tell at any moment how many coolies there are on each work and to provide fresh work for them as each is completed. All village officers have strict orders to send in to such centres any persons in their villages who are suffering from want, and relieve them, if necessary, for a few days until this is done. I have authorized a moderate establishment to each Revenue Inspector to secure every village being visited and the arrangements explained at frequent intervals. Personal responsibility for the lives of the people is being impressed upon all concerned at the same time with strict economy.

RECORDED.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 620-B. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1877, No. 748-A.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 19th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th February 1877, No. 748-A.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 620-A—620-B.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 556-C.

Famine Relief arrangements, Tinnevelly District.—Recording Board's Proceedings on report of the Acting Collector on the — for the week ending 27th January 1877.