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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	782	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22-2-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

HW

Famine Relief.

No. 680.

Miscellaneous.

Dated 22nd February 1877, No. 782.

His Grace the Governor in Council thinks it necessary to notice the following instructions issued by District

Officers, which are either too vague in their directions, or at variance with the orders of Government.

2. In one report it is observed that a Collector has delegated the sanction of estimates of relief-works not exceeding 1000 Rs. to his subordinate officers. In this order the Collector has divested himself of a responsibility which was placed in his hands, and which, in the opinion of Government, should remain with him.

3. Another report contains a rule under which "a task-work for a gang on relief-works as fixed by a certain scale is never to be lowered, and no excuse for its non-completion is to be taken;" and it is added "that if any gang fails to complete half the task-work, every individual of such a gang shall lose a whole day's pay."

4. While fully sensible of the importance of requiring moderate work from all able-bodied persons on relief-work, the Governor in Council has had before him examples in which a hard and fast rule, such as that above quoted, has led to disastrous results, and this is likely to be more especially the case when the supervision is left to native subordinates, who fear to modify, according to circumstances, the orders they have received. He desires, therefore, to impress on all Collectors the necessity of carefully revising such instructions and guarding against their probable results. It must be remembered that many of those on relief-works are unaccustomed to the work on which they are employed or to working in gangs. It may, therefore, be an unjustifiable severity to keep a whole gang without food in consequence of individual weakness, idleness, or contumacy.

5. In the instructions issued by some Collectors it is laid down that persons in the possession of good clothes must be rejected from relief gangs.

6. His Grace in Council has reason to believe that this rule has also been too strictly interpreted, and that persons actually in extreme destitution have, on the ground that they are not in rags, or in the ordinary scantily-clothed condition of the laboring agricultural cooly, been rejected, while it was the fact that these persons had abstained from public relief until on the verge of starvation, and that their clothing, although of good texture, would not find any sale among their starving neighbours.

7. It is also observed that in some cases instructions have been issued "that on no account can Government undertake to give subsistence to the children and infirm dependents of persons on relief-works."

8. The rigid enforcement of this instruction when laborers on relief-works are obtaining a bare subsistence has already in one instance led to deplorable results.

9. The orders of Government on this subject are sufficient, if observed, to prevent any such occurrences, but His Grace in Council deems it of importance to bring the effect of this rule to the notice of all Collectors, and earnestly to recall to

them that the task that the Government and their officers have before them is to preserve, in so far as is humanly possible, the lives of the vast numbers whom the calamitous season has rendered entirely dependent on the State relief.

10. In making these remarks, the Member in Council takes this opportunity of cordially acknowledging the valuable services rendered by every class of the Government service, and the cheerful manner in which they are giving effect to the orders of the Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To all Collectors.

- „ the Board of Revenue.
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Public Works Department.
- „ the Accountant-General.

Ed. A. F. Goodall.

No 782

27th Feb 1877

It is Grace the Governor in Council, thinks it necessary to notice the following instructions issued by District Officers which are either too vague in their directions or at variance with the orders of Government.

In one report it is observed that a collector has delegated the sanction of estimates of Relief works not exceeding 1000 Rs. to his subordinate officers. In this ^{order} ~~direction~~ the collector has delegated himself of a responsibility which, in the opinion of Government should remain with him.

Another report contains a rule under which - "a task work for a gang on relief works as fixed by a certain scale is never to be lowered and no excuse for its non-completion

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

REVENUE.

ALL COLLECTORS.

A.C., S.C., &c.

Dated February, 22nd.

No. 680.

REVENUE DEPT. No. 570.

Notice hereby giving certain instructions issued by District Officers, which are either too vague in their directions, or at variance with the orders of Government.

"is to be taken" and it is added
"that if any gang fails to com-
plete half the task work. Every
individual of such a gang
shall lose a whole day's pay."

While fully sensible of
the importance of requiring ^{the}
moderate work from all able-
bodied persons on Relief work
the Governor in Council has
had before him examples in
which a hard and fast rule
such as that above quoted has
led to disastrous results, and
this is likely to be more es-
pecially the case when the su-
pervision is left to Native Sub-
ordinates who fear to modify
according to circumstances
the orders they have received. He
desires therefore to impress on
all collectors the necessity of
carefully revising such in-
structions and guarding
against their probable results.
It must be remembered that
many of those on Relief work
are unaccustomed to the
work on which they are em-
ployed or to working in gangs.
It

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It may therefore be an unjusti-
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gang without food in conse-
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or contumacy.

In the instructions issued
by some collectors it is laid
down that persons in the pos-
session of good clothes must be
rejected from relief gangs.

His Grace in Council has
reason to believe that this
rule has also been too strictly
interpreted and that ^{persons} ac-
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have, on the ground that they
do not ^{wear} rag or in the
^{scarcely clothed} condition of the la-
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been rejected. While it was the
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from public relief until on the
verge of starvation and that
their ^{possessors of good clothing} clothing would find any
sale among their starving neigh-
bours.

It is also observed that
in some cases instructions have
been issued "that on no ac-
count can Government under-
take

take to give subsistence to the children and infirm dependents of persons on relief works.

The rigid enforcement of this instruction when laborers on Relief works are obtaining a bare subsistence has in one instance led to deplorable results.

The recent orders on this subject ^{are sufficient if observed} ~~will~~ His Grace in Council ~~trusts to~~ prevent any ^{such} occurrences [in future] but he deems it of importance to bring the effect of this rule to the notice of all collectors and earnestly to recall to them that the task that the Government and their Officers have before them is, to preserve, in so far as humanly possible, the lives of the vast numbers whom the calamitous season has rendered entirely dependent on the State relief.

In making these remarks His Grace in Council takes this opportunity of cordially acknowledging the valuable services rendered by every class of

of the Government service the cheerful spirit in which they are giving effect to the Orders of the Government.

22/11
JH
20/11

To all Collectors of 1844 by
The Boarding Recd
The Financial Secy
The BW Secy
The Secy and General

1300
130

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Receipt

Dr. 2/27/77

My dear —
Please send out
at once
W.H.

Kind regards
21-2-77
W.H.