

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 20-7-1983
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1993	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14-8-1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1993
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

31st July 1878, F.R. No. 1,660.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 528. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund 15th July 1878, No. 1,259.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Member of the Famine Commission, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Coonoor, 13th July 1878, No. 1-A.

ADVERTING to the letter of the Secretary to the Famine Commission, dated the 22nd ultimo, and the paper of questions therewith transmitted for circulation, I have the honor to request the sanction of His Grace the Governor in Council to correspond with officers in the Madras Presidency generally on the subjects to which the attention of the Commission has been directed.

2. The Commission's inquiries embrace a field that it is most desirable and important, collected should from the beginning be as relevant and as condensed, compatibly with fullness, as possible.

3. It is desirable that officers and establishments charged with onerous current duties should not be unnecessarily harassed, and that where statistics or information of a reliable nature and in sufficient detail can be had from one or several particular sources it should not be required promiscuously.

4. If the particular attention of particular officers is directed to the points on which individually they are best qualified to give information or express opinion, their well-considered answers on such points will evidently be of much greater service to the Commission than attempts to deal in the limited time given with all, or even any great portion, of the questions propounded. By allotment as far as possible the whole field may be covered, whilst the information collected will be well considered and the best procurable.

5. It is indeed difficult in the circumstances to carry precise allotment very far; but if the principle is kept in view, and the suggestions in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the letter above quoted are adopted as far as applicable to the Presidency and somewhat amplified, the intelligence of the officers called on to submit replies will go far to provide the largest measure of precise information and thoughtful opinion, with the least unnecessary interference with current work and to avoid unnecessary and redundant transmission of information obtainable at once from a number of different sources.

6. *Questions, Chapter I.*—I would suggest that the Board of Revenue be requested to take Chapter 1 of the questions specially in hand. Most of the statistical information required could be supplied from its records; such details as are not available in the Board's Office could be specially called for direct by the Board from Collectors, or other officers, who would thus be relieved from preparing and sending in returns not really required. On most of the general questions the Board are in a position to give accurate information and reliable opinion without reference to districts.

If Government sanction this procedure I would immediately put myself in communication with the Board; and I think in this manner much unnecessary expenditure of time and labor may be saved.

The opinions of the Board on portions of the other chapters and of the individual officers constituting and connected with it on special points on which they have matured views would also be very valuable.

7. Relieved of the duty of sending statistics not specially called for by the Board of Revenue, Collectors would turn more concentrated attention to questions to which they were specially directed, or on which from individual or local circumstances they found themselves in a position to notice particularly; all Collectors should reply fully on Questions 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 (last two sentences) 20, 21, 23 and 24 for their respective districts. These replies, with such remarks as they might desire to make on other portions of Chapter 1, would most conveniently be sent direct to me, and similarly with officers in the Settlement, Forest, Police, and other departments, whose attention might, I think, be specially directed to certain particular questions as noted, without necessarily limiting their remarks to these points only.

8. Questions, Chapters II and III.—The experience of 1876-77, with the famine reports and proceedings, from the first threatening of scarcity till now, would supply answers to many of the questions in Chapters 2 and 3; and a general report replying categorically to the questions might probably be most satisfactorily prepared under the Secretary to G.

The independent individual replies of selected officers to questions in these chapters on points with regard to which they have had personal and practical experience in the last two years will be very valuable. These reports might be called for from selected officers of various departments and grades with instructions that the papers should be submitted to me direct by the officers concerned.

9. Questions, Chapter IV.—I presume that as suggested in paragraph 4 of the Famine Commission Secretary's letter, replies to the questions in Chapter IV will be sought from the Department of Public Works and certain selected Civil officers of experience and judgment.

10. Whilst intimation of the special points to which departments and individuals are desired to turn particular attention is given the general circulation of this set of questions *in extenso* is desirable, as the scope of the inquiry will thus be better apprehended than if elimination is attempted.

And if Government is pleased to communicate names of those to whom questions are specially put with the respective subjects of inquiry, I will, with the permission of Government, communicate with them as may seem further necessary. I propose requesting that information may be sent me from time to time as prepared, so that the work of comparison and compilation may be commenced as soon as possible, and that reference may be made on matters regarding which the information may be insufficient or appear contradictory, or in any way require elucidation.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 529.

ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1878, F.R. No. 1,660.

Miscellaneous.

The Government have no objection to Mr. Ballard's communicating direct, as may be found necessary, with the officers specially named by him in connection with certain subjects of inquiry, but the answers to his communications should, of course, be communicated to Government, together with the replies of the officers to the general questions.

2. The Government consider, however, that the most reliable and valuable information will be obtained by each officer sending in his replies to the whole questions with which he may deal in a complete form and at one time.

(True Extract.)

J. H. P.
Additional Secretary to Government.

To G. A. Ballard, Esq., Member, Famine Commission.

- „ the Director of Revenue Settlement.
- „ the Conservator of Forests.
- „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ the Superintendent, Government Farms.
- „ the Inspector-General of Police.
- „ the Public, &c., Departments.
- „ the Revenue Department.
- „ the Public Works „
- „ the Military
- „ the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- „ the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
- „ the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
- „ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
- „ the Accountant-General.

Exd. W. H. French.

4 Spare Copies.

Will follow.

Revenue 1878 deficit
10,332.3

Col. of 1878 3000000

REVENUE

G. A. BALLARD, Esq.

Secy. of

Oct. 31st 1878

and August 31st

— 17/185

G.O., 31st July 1878, P.R. No. 1,000

J. T. L. Y.

No. 523-529

Salute of Loyalty by the Foreign Secretary
Mr. Secretary, Mr. Ballard to your letter
of the 21st inst. with the officers specially named
in the same, and the same will, certainly, and I
trust, be forwarded to the Government together with the
reply of the officers to the general questions.

21/1878
lodged

14th Aug 1878