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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1600 B	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	30-4-1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1600/3

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th April 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 235. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 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 1st April 1877, No. 235.

In forwarding copy of a letter from Raghava Rao, Temporary Deputy Collector in the Western Division, I have the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to recommend to Government that their bounty as to the grant of small pieces of cloth to the naked inmates of the relief kitchens may be extended to the very destitute among the female coolies on our works.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. RAGHAVA RAO, Special Deputy Collector, to the Deputy Collector of Harpanahally Division, dated Hospett, 23rd March 1877, No. 53.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., No. 738, of 19th ultimo, sanctioning the distribution of panjams to the really helpless poor who are fed in relief-houses.

2. I had long been hesitating to address you on the foregoing similar subject, but having now been encouraged by the said Government Order, and feeling convinced that some consideration would be given to my proposal, I beg to submit it for your consideration as common respect to decency and modesty.

3. Dress denoting decency is an essential requirement of a civilised nation, and it is preferred as a more urgent necessity for existence to mere life preservation.

4. Now, destitution and despair have reached their climax, and the poor are compelled to disregard this necessity in search of anything to appease their hunger, and all consideration to decency and modesty are succumbing to the pinching want for a morsel of food.

5. I am always on tour in villages, and I came in contact with several distressed souls. I am painfully shocked to see some female coolies in a state verging to complete nudity, and I regret that the pressure of their distress should have reduced them to resign the ordinary privileges of their sex.

6. Of what I have seen, I think that the females of this part of the country always wore and wear a better covering dress than their sisters of the south and north, and I see many of them now moving in horribly dirty and sickening rags with their children stark naked.

7. The wages that we give are barely sufficient for individual life preservation, and therefore cannot help them to procure a clothing. Coarse as they are, it cannot be expected that those cloths which have been worn can last for years, notwithstanding their daily use (as several have only a single cloth, and cannot afford to spare it even for a wash), and they must wear away, especially now when their wearers are at hard work on roads and tanks.

8. I think that this is a crisis for Government generously to respect and protect female modesty by extending the concession sanctioned for the poor in relief-houses to the really helpless and almost naked coolies.

9. Men could move in public with a piece of cloth around their waist or with short breeches, but females cannot do so; and I am reliably informed that some females confine themselves to their houses for want of a covering.

10. If this necessity be neglected and should the season continue in its present disastrous state, we may soon see the sorely distressed portion of the female sex gradually forced to appear naked in public in quest of food for their support.

11. I request that you will give the subject your best consideration, and submit it for neces-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th April 1877.*

sary orders. Females here generally wear coarse, ^{cheap} cloths, and each of them costs not more than Rs. 1-8-0, and I think that about 10 per cent. would be the average number of female coolies that would necessarily require to be clothed as above suggested.

Submitted to Government with the Board's recommendation that Collectors be authorised to give coarse cloths to women coming to the work insufficiently covered.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 726. ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1877, No. 1,600-B.

Miscellaneous.

The Government authorise Collectors to use their discretion in the matter in doing what they are satisfied is absolutely indispensable for purposes of decency, within certain limits of expenditure which must not be exceeded. These the Board are requested to fix in communication with Collectors.

(Extract.)

H. CARSTEN

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

No.

From *Rev R. H.*

Dated *April 13th* 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

*Whether clothes are to be
given to women on relief
work who are insufficiently
clad.*

*Shall I Col's proposal
that a cloth of the value of
1 1/2 W. sh. be ~~provided for~~ each
piece of the female
clothing work, some
submit, unnecessary -
No submit, is then an
excuse for such a measure
if the women are really so*

Cont. of (1877) *Exh.*

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April 10/77.

Recd.

G.O., 30th April 1877, No. 1,600-B.

APRIL.

No. 725-728.

PAMINE RELIEF, NO. 1,034-B.

*Women coming insufficiently covered to Relief
work. - Authorising Collectors to use their discre-
tion in the matter of supplying cloths to -*

finished with hunger
 that they prefer to expose
 their persons rather
 than make an
 effort to obtain food,
 the proper place for them
 is the relief-camp & there
 they will get clothes.
 If it is ^{known} that
 however relief work will
 get clothes if the effort
 sufficiently made there
 will be a surprising
 growth of gratitude
 visible.

J.H.P.
 7/4/77

It seems to me that if
 it be well ascertained
 that the food ration is
 such that it has had
 to be eked out by sale
 of clothing - it is
 insufficient. That the
 proper remedy is to
 increase the allowance
 of food. But I am
 now giving clothes
 especially having in
 mind that the
 sale of clothes or
 their non-appearance

16000
 I have given the clothes to the
 charity of the poor & the
 purpose of the clothing
 is to give the poor
 the money to buy food
 & the clothes.

May not have been
wholly unimpaired
by Sir H. Temple's remarks
upon the good clothing.

I should sanction
the Collector if he
satisfies himself that
the work is such as
merits the diet scale
slightly. I should
say the way I
gather the cases are
not known very general
but it is an evil to be
guarded against.
Ref. 22/4

C19-4-77 R26-4-77

OR ORDERS.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 13th April 1877.

Read the following:-

No. 235 From. The Collector Bellary.

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir, In forwarding copy of a letter from
Rashvara Sam, Temporary Deputy Collector
in the Western Division, I have the honor
to request that the Board will be pleased
to recommend to Government that their
bounty as to the grant of small pieces
of cloth to the naked inmates of the
relief kitchens may be extended to the
very destitute among the female coolies on
our works.

I have the honor
to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. H. Meester
Collector.

[Bellary Collector's Office]
1st April 1877

Enclosed.

No. 53. To The Deputy Collector
Hassanahally Division.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of S.O. No. 738 of 19th March
sanctioning the distribution of panjamas
to the really helpless poor, who are fed
in relief houses.

21

2. I had long been hesitating to address you on the following similar subject but having now been encouraged by the said S. O. and feeling convinced that some consideration would be given to my proposal, I beg to breach it for such consideration as common respect to famine necessities demand.

3. Dress, befitting decency, is an essential requirement of a civilized nation and it is preferred as a most urgent necessity for existence to mere life preservation.

4. Now destitution and despair have reached their climax and the poor are compelled to disregard this necessity in search of anything to appease their hunger and all consideration to decency and modesty are succumbing to the pinching want for a morsel of food.

5. I am always on tour in villages and I came in contact with several distressed souls. I am painfully shocked to see some female coolies in a state verging to complete nudity and I regret that the pressure of their distress should have reduced them to resign the ordinary privileges of their sex.

6. Of what I have seen, I think that the females of this part of the country always wear and wear a better covering dress than their sisters of the South and North and I see many of them now, moving in horridly dirty and sickening rags with their children stark naked.

7. The wags that we find are
barely

being sufficient for individual life preservation and therefore cannot help them to procure a clothing. Coarse as they are, it cannot be supposed that those clothes which have been worn, can last for years notwithstanding their daily use (as several have only a single cloth and cannot afford to spare it even for a wash) and they must wear away, especially when their wearers are at hard work on roads and tanks.

8. I think that this is a crisis for Government generously to respect and protect female modesty by extending the concession sanctioned for the poor in relief houses to the really helpless and almost naked coolies.

9. Some could move in public with a piece of cloth around their waist or with short breeches; but females cannot do so, and I am reliably informed that some females confine themselves to their houses for want of a covering.

10. If this necessity be neglected and should the season continue in its present state, we may soon see the squalid distressed portion of the female sex gradually forced to appear naked in public in quest of food for their support.

11. I request that you will give the subject your best consideration and submit it for necessary orders. Females here generally wear coarse black clothes and each of them costs not more

more than Rs 1-8. " And I think that
about 10 per cent would be the proper
number of female coolies that would
necessarily require to be clothed as above
suggested.

Sp. L. Dr. Office } I have recd
Camp Hospital } S. L. Raghava Rao
23rd March 1877 } Sp. L. Collector.

/S. L. Raghava Rao
S. L. Raghava Rao
Master
Collector.

The Board submitted to Government with
the recommendation that Collectors
be authorized to give coarse cloths to women
coming to the work insufficiently covered.

/S. L. Raghava Rao & Sahasr

Quintus

Secretary.

In the Additional Secretary to Government.
Rev. Secy.

Sh

7 Dec. 2018

600

C-19-4-59R 26-4-77

B