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(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1600 B	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	30-4-1977	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Famine Relief.

No. 725. 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 Harpanhally 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 following 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 such consideration as common respect to feminine modesty may demand.

3. Dress befitting 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-

sary orders. Females here generally wear coarse, [illegible] 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.

(True Extract.)

[illegible] H. CARSTIN

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1877] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

Sir,

Dated April 20th.

Read.

Enclo

G.O., 20th April 1877, No. 1,000-R.

APRIL.

Nos. 726-729.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 1,094-R.

Women coming insufficiently covered to Relief works.—Authorising Collectors to use their discretion in the matter of supplying cloths to —.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1093

From Rev Bd.

Dated April 13th 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

whether cloths are to be given to women on relief works who are insufficiently clad.

The Dt Collr's proposal that a cloth of the value of 1½ Rs. should be provided for each of the females coming to the works seems, I submit, necessary. I submit, is there any reason for such a measure in case of women on relief works

[illegible] sick hungry
that they prefer to expose
their persons rather
than not to obtain food,
& forego places for them
in the relief-camps where
they will get clothes.
I know that
if it is true I know the
best relief work to be
done is to open the
shops & let the afflicted
purchase with their
own money - but I am
not sure that it is true.
I know that
if it be well ascertained
that the food ration is
such that it warrants
the withdrawal of
a clothing - it is
insufficient. That the
proper remedy is to
increase the allowance
of food. But I am
averse to giving clothes
especially bearing in
mind that the
sale of clothes on
their new appearance

I do not know the facts to enable me to form an opinion but I am sure the Central Committee will carefully investigate the matter before they recommend the withdrawal of relief and I am sure they will not do so unless they are satisfied that the distress can be relieved in no other way.

I.H.

11/4/77

may not have been
wholly unintentional
by Lt N. Temple Wilmot
upon the good clothing.

I would therefore
the Collector of Salt
Sates pies respectfully that
the Lieut. are such. of
the Lieut. do not state
distinctly that I shall
slightly [illegible] I
say the ways the cases are
gotten the cases are
best known very general
but it is an evil to be
guarded against.

R. 22/4

(19-4-77) R 20-4-77)

OR ORDERS.

Revenue Department.

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

Read the following viz:-

No. 235 From. The Collector Bellary

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir, I forwarding Copy of a letter from Rajahara Row, 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 in the Case of Small Pieces of Cloth to the naked inmates of the relief Kitchens may be extended to the very destitute among the female exiles on our works.

I have &c.
S/ J. H. Munster
Collector.

Bellary Collector's Office
1st April 1877.

Endorsement.

No. 53 From The Deputy Collector
Harpanhally Division.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of S.O. No. 738 of 19th Ultimo Sanctioning the distribution of pauper to the real 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 modesty & decency demand.

3. Dress, befitting decency, is an essential requirement of a civilized nation and it is professed 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 Piece of Cloth.

5. I am always on tour in villages and I come in contact with several distressed souls. I am painfully shocked to see some female coolies in a state verging to complete nudity and I expect that the pressure of this distress shall 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 horrible 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 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. Even could dress be public with a piece of cloth around their waist as 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 large 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 cloths and each of these costs not more

more than Rs 1-8- a 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 suffers to

Spl Dy Collr's office
Camp Hospet
23rd March 1875

I have &c
S. C. Rajahara Rao
Spl Dy Collector.

/True copy/
S.B.C.A. master
Collector.

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

/True copy/ Sd Stewart

Sd Reeves
Secretary.

To the Additional Secretary to Government.
Rev Dept.

Sd

S.C.19 Feby/77 No 60 28 to 28

Rec. 1877 Dept
Feb 25/8.

Pro: of the B. of Ther.
Date 13th April 1877
Desp.
Rec'd 14

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Subm'd to Sec'y Bellary
Coll'rs letter with the Bd's recom-
-mendation that Coll'r be auth-
-orized to give Coarse cloths to women
coming to the work insufficiently
covered.

B

GO 30 April/77 — No 1600

No 1600 D

Sir, I am directed by the Collector to transmit herewith a letter from the Board of Revenue, dated 13th instant, and to request that you will be pleased to submit the same to the Secretary of State for India in Council, with a recommendation that the Collector may be authorized to give coarse cloths to women coming to the Relief Works insufficiently covered.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

Sd/ [illegible]
Secy to the Govt of Madras
Public Department

Madras Ch. 10 Feby/77
35 of 1877
5 Rs. Allowed and Forwarded.
S. R. Hanamanta Rao

Sd/ 4/3/77

Sd/ [illegible]
Sec'y Govt
Pub. Dept.

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