

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	433.	Press Mis.
<u>355. 56.</u>		
Dated	20 th February	1967.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	433.	Press Mis.
<u>355. 56.</u>		
Dated	20 th February	1906.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th February 1869.*

No. 355: Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th January 1869, No. 325.

Read the following :—

From the Acting Sub-Collector in charge of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 31st December 1868, No. 396.

1. In accordance with Rules IV. and VII., for the remission of assessment, embodied in the Board's Standing Circular, No. 137, dated 1st November 1865, I have the honor to report upon the question of granting remission on unirrigated land in this district for Fusly 1278.

2. In order to put the matter before the Board as clearly as possible, I will proceed briefly to review the state of the season from the commencement of this Fusly up to the present time, and will then lay before them the proposals, bearing on the matter, received from the several Divisional and Local Officers.

3. In the months of June and July, there was heavy rain throughout the district, on account of which the "Punasa" or early dry crops, consisting of "Sojja," "Korra," "Gidda Jonna," "Mukka Jonna," (Maize) and "Nuvu" (Gingelly-oil seed), were harvested, and yielded full produce. The Maize crop, however, in the Divi Division of the Bunder Talook, that is, in the villages bordering on the Kistna river, suffered from the heavy floods which came down the Kistna in August. In that month the rain-fall throughout the district was moderate. In September again, it was heavy; but the north-east monsoon was almost a complete failure. The average

					Average fall of rain.	
					I.	C.
June	...	...	...	...	5	12
July	...	...	...	...	8	20
August	...	...	...	...	3	59
September	...	...	...	...	6	53
October	...	...	...	...	1	75
November	...	...	...	...	0	33

fall of rain in each month from June to November is given in the margin. There was no rain at all in the present month. Owing to this failure of monsoon, the black paddy crop ("Yeradam," "Jeelama," and "Budama"), raised on unirrigated land, suffered considerably. It has, however, been reaped and har-

vested; but the outturn, so far as has been ascertained, has not exceeded from one-third to one-half of the average crop. The "Pyra" or later crop, consisting of Gram, Varagu, Tobacco, &c., has not as yet come to maturity. It is kept alive by dew, and, though it has not yet actually withered, the outturn may be expected to be very small, unless we have some rain shortly, so far as regards crops raised on unirrigated land: with regard to those dependent on irrigation, there is no anxiety, except in the Divi Division of Bunder Talook, where the cultivation was commenced late in the season; and where some losses may be anticipated.

4. The accompanying Statement shews at a glance the amount of remission proposed for each Division, with a total of Rupees 71,897-8-0. I have touched upon the several proposals in the Column of Remarks.

5. I beg also to forward copies of reports, received from the Head Assistant and Deputy Collector, on the subject. It will be seen from paragraph 3 of Mr. Stuart's letter, that he anticipates considerable scarcity in the Zemindary tracts under his charge. A further report is expected, and that part of the country will be closely watched.

W. H. Ball

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20th February 1869*

6. There does not seem to be much likelihood that remissions will be required in the Bezwada Talook; but I would recommend that *carte blanche* be given to Mr. Stuart to grant remissions in the Nundigama Talook up to the sum proposed by him, namely, Rupees 6,600, so far as it may be found necessary to do so.

7. As regards the Deputy Collector's Division, I am inclined to think that the view taken by the Tahsildar of Palnad is the sound one, and that the profit derived from a plentiful harvest of the early crops will enable the ryots to tide over the difficulties resulting from the partial failure of the later cultivation.

8. No report has been received from the late Sub-Collector regarding his division, but the Tahsildars of Krosoor and Guntoor report that no remission is required in their Talooks; while the Tahsildar of Baputla has not shewn to my satisfaction that the indulgence is necessary, so far as his talook is concerned.

9. On the whole, I think myself, that with the exception of portions of the Bunder Talook, where not only have the later crops suffered, but the earlier crops were destroyed by the freshes, no remission will be required.

10. My view of the case is this : unlike the less favored agriculturists of North Arcot and the adjoining districts, the people of Kistna, have the advantage of succeeding to a year of plenty : their resources have not been crippled by a previous year's disasters. They had the benefit, this Fusly, of a plentiful early harvest, their " Punasa" crops yielding full produce ; and, though the later crops have suffered considerably from a scanty north-east monsoon, they have not been altogether lost, nor are prices by any means high ; and I think that, with these advantages, the ryots can well tide over their losses, and that the circumstances of the season are not so exceptional as to render the indulgence of remissions on dry crops absolutely necessary, or to justify me in recommending that a corresponding proportion of the revenue should be sacrificed.

11. At the same time, as I am quite new to the district, I am loathe conclusively to set up my individual opinion against the experience, or to place an absolute veto on the proposals of the different Local Officers. If I remain in charge of the district, I propose to take up the settlement of the three talooks of the chief Division, in two of which the Tahsildars consider that remission on punjah lands will be necessary. I shall also undertake the settlement of Baputla Talook in the Sub, and of Venukonda in the Deputy Collector's Division, where a similar necessity is reported to exist, as well as that of Rajapett in the same division, where the case is at present doubtful. The Head Assistant and Deputy Collector will each be able to conduct the Jummahbundy of one of the two remaining talooks of the Sub-Division.

12. In submitting this report, therefore, what I would ask the Board is, to give me discretionary powers to authorize such remissions on dry crops as by a careful and personal inquiry, at the time of settlement, may be found to be absolutely necessary.

From the Acting Deputy Collector, Kistna District, to the Acting Sub-Collector, in charge of the Kistna District, dated Venukonda, 9th December 1868, No. 115.

1. With reference to the late Acting Collector's Memorandum, No. 78, dated 16th November

* To be returned.

1868, I have the honor, herewith, to forward four
Arzies* received from the Tahsildar of Rajapett,

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Venukonda, and Palnad Talooks, and the Sub-Magistrate of Tumkur Division, reporting on the state of the season, and the desirability of granting remission for the dry lands for the current year.

2. It would be seen from these reports, that the pyra or late dry crops have suffered more or less in all the talooks of the division, (Palnad appears to have suffered the least,) from the failure of rains since October last. The Tahsildar of Palnad and the Sub-Magistrate of Tumkur Division are of opinion, that, considering the advantages derived by the ryots from their other dry lands, it would not be necessary to grant any remission on account of the lands wholly or partially left waste, or on account of the unfavorable condition of the pyra crops, owing to the failure of rains during the past two months. The Tahsildar of Rajapett thinks it proper to say nothing at present about remission of dry assessment, and to consider the claims of individual ryots for such remission about the end of the official year, should they then appear to be unable to discharge their arrear. The Tahsildar of Venukonda Talook says, that it is not at present possible for him to estimate, in detail, the losses of the ryots, consequent on the bad season; and he considers on the whole that it would be necessary to grant remission to the amount of 6,000 Rupees.

3. I have personally inspected many villages of the Rajapet and Venukonda Talooks during the past two months. On an average, nearly half of the lands prepared for sowing varagu (one of the principal articles of pyra cultivation) were left waste for want of rain, and most of the other lands cultivated with this article appeared to be in a poor state for the same reason. Varagu forms about one-sixth part of the whole for dry cultivation in this division, and half of this being lost, the total amount of loss on this account would come to a considerable sum. As presumed by the Palnad Tahsildar and the Sub-Magistrate of Tummurucota, the ryots, to a certain extent, are able to make up, from their other lands, what they lose by the failure of their pyra crops. But I cannot think that it would be the case with all. Notwithstanding the high prices at which they could sell every species of grain, yielded in their lands during the past ten or twelve years, without the least addition to their assessment, a great number of the ryots in this part are so poor that they cannot even now pay off their assessment without the help of some Sowcar or other, to whom they deliver all that yields in their lands in discharge of former debts, and depend upon fresh loans for their future maintenance. Such ryots cannot, in my opinion, well stand the loss of the pyra crop to which they are subjected this year, without some remission of their assessment.

4. Under all these circumstances, I would propose to remit Rs. 15,000 (fifteen thousand), to be remitted for the three talooks attached to this division.

From the Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Sub-Collector, in charge of the Kistna District, dated Bezawada, 12th December 1868, No. 281.

1. With reference to your Memorandum, No. 107, dated 16th November 1868, I have the honor to state that, in my opinion, there will be no scarcity of grain in either of the Government talooks under my charge; and that in the villages where the soil is black delta clay, the crops appear very fine; this is owing to the retention of moisture by that kind of soil.

2. On the other hand, where the soil is sandy or gravelly the crop is nowhere good, yet, as regards the Nundigama Talook, it is in but few places a total failure. Still, from what I have lately seen in travelling through this talook, I have no doubt that there are in a good many villages ryots whose whole crop has failed, and who will, in all probability, be unable to pay their sist. If, therefore, the Board would wish to give remissions in such cases, even though there is no apprehension of general scarcity, I beg to recommend that leave be given me to grant remissions on dry lands up to Rupees 6,600, being half as much again as the amount estimated by the Nundigama Tahsildar, which I think may turn out too moderate an estimate.

3. As regards the Bezwada Talook, no remission will be required for the southern portions. The Tahsildar has gone on leave without reporting on this point, and I have not been able, since returning from leave, to visit the northern villages. These, if any, would require remission : but the Revenue Inspector of that division reports, that none will be required, without however giving

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any account of the state of the crops. A second reference has been made, pending receipt of answer, to which I should hesitate to say that no remission will be required, as some of the lands in this part of the talook are sandy.

4. I have called for a report on the prospects of the crops in the Zemindary talooks under my charge, and will inform you of the result; but I am inclined to fear that the cholam crop in these has almost wholly failed, and that before another grain crop comes in, the people may be hard pressed for food. This is owing to the sandy nature of the soil in a great part of the Nuzid Zemindary, in the Tiruvur Talook, and in the Munagala Zemindary, and the want of the usual north-east monsoon rains.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Statement.

Telegram from the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th January 1869.

PLEASE telegraph reply to my letter number three hundred and ninety-six, dated thirty-first ultimo. Everything ready for Jummahbundy, and Board's sanction as regards dry remissions only required.

In this letter, the Acting Collector of Kistna, solicits permission to make remissions on dry lands in certain parts of that district.

2. He reports that the early rain was abundant throughout the district, and the *punasa* or early dry crops generally turned out well. Heavy floods, however, caused serious loss in the Divi Division of the Bunder Talook. The same causes give reason for some anxiety in regard to the wet crops on low lying irrigated lands, whose cultivation was thrown late in the season in this limited area.

3. In consequence of the failure of the north-east monsoon, there has been serious loss of the *pyra* or late dry crops, and of black paddy grown on unirrigated land.

4. A Statement of probable prospective remissions, amounting to Rupees

• On account of dry lands taken up in	Rs.	71,897-8-0,*
which the crops have failed...	14,712	
On account of Bunder not cultivated...	57,185	
	71,897	

is submitted, and the Acting Sub-Collector in charge has carefully reviewed the proposals of the several Local Officers, and records an opinion that no remissions will be required,

save in the Divi Division, where the early crop was destroyed, and the late crops have likewise suffered.

5. He bases this hope on the facts, that last season was a favorable year, that the early harvest was plentiful, and that the loss of the late crops has not been complete.

6. Mr. Comyn is not, however, willing to veto the recommendation of experienced Local Officers, and intends to settle the most distressed talooks himself, and requests the Board to give him "discretionary powers to authorize such remissions on dry crops as by a careful and personal inquiry, at the time of settlement, may be found absolutely necessary."

7. The Board have full confidence in Mr. Comyn's discretion, and accord the power he seeks.

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8. Ordered that the following Telegram be despatched to the Acting Sub-Collector in charge of the Kistna District:—

"The discretionary powers applied for by you for remissions are granted."

No. 356.

ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1869, No. 433.

Land Revenue.

The orders of the Board are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. TARTON.

Revenue Department
No. 133.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 20th July 1869

Read the following. Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue.

Informing Govt.
that the A. Sub Collyer, charge
of the Kistna Dist^{ct} has been
empowered to grant permissions
on dry Crops in the Dist^{ct} where
found to be absolutely necessary

(H.E. 19th Jan'y 1870 325)

The orders of
the Board are
approved.

W. H.

A. J.

110

11 Copies of this Order Despatched

57

W. H. Ball

Jan. 11 1869

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February, 20th.

Recd.

G. O., 20th February 1869, No. 433.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 355-356.

Remission of dry lands in Kistna Dist^{ct}.
Order of the Board of Revenue granting
the Local Officer discretionary powers to grant
remission of dry lands.