

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1127.

DATED 25th Feb. 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reading with reference to para 2 of
and for 114010-297 not entering to go to office
from the C.M. of Panjani for found for relief
charges in his district.

BACK PAPERS.

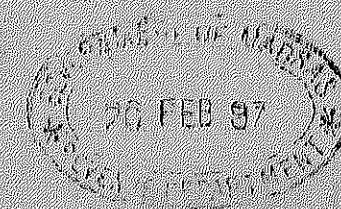
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1553



From
The Board of Revenue
(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

Order

No. 130 Reso.

Dated 12th February 1897.

Received to - 2 - 97

Registered to - 2 - 97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Relief charges.

Submitting to Government
application from the Collector
for funds for — in the
Ganjam District.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRIC.), 12th FEB. 1897, No. 130.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 29th January 1897, No. 165-F:—

As it is apparent that the scarcity in this district is deepening into famine, I have the honour, as required by section 38 of the Famine Code, to submit an estimate of the funds particularized under the various heads as required.

2. Up to date no relief work has been opened in the district, as the test works which have been tried have failed to attract labour, and gratuitous relief has so far only been distributed in isolated cases.

The difficulty in the way of framing any estimates of the expenditure likely to be incurred is at this stage very great. I have therefore deferred doing so as long as I could, expecting developments which would enable me to make a more accurate forecast. The Accountant-General has, however, obtained from me, in answer to a very urgent call, an estimate of the extra expenditure due to famine. I feel therefore that I can no longer delay submitting estimates to Government. Funds, moreover, for meeting famine expenditure in the way of gratuitous relief and advances to weavers are immediately needed.

3. The statistics of the famine of 1888-89, all of which are available, are of course an obvious means of framing a forecast for the present year. The general opinion seems to be that the current season is about the same as 1888-89. Some hold it is worse and others better. After careful perusal of the reports relating to that year, it seems to me that the position is worse in some respects but better in others.

4. In 1888, there were fair rains in the end of October and beginning of November, which greatly relieved the situation and enabled the ryots to grow winter dry crops, and thus kept the labourers employed into the hot weather. This year has been absolutely rainless since the end of September, and it may be said now that there is hardly any standing crop of any kind anywhere and no work for the agricultural labourers.

In 1888-89, the Chicacole taluk and the Parlakimedi zemindari were safe, but this year there has been failure of crop more or less extensive throughout the district, and even in the taluks which have fared best, there has been a very large loss.

5. On the other hand, though the failure of crop is more extended, I do not think it has been, with perhaps the doubtful exception of Tekkali taluk, locally anywhere so severe as it was in some parts in 1888-89, e.g., Goomsur, where this year there was an estimated 8 anna crop.

Moreover the three years which preceded the famine of 1888-89 were indifferent years; whereas the present scarcity comes on the top of three years of plenty in this district.

This, however, has had no effect in keeping down prices which are already almost as high as they ever went in 1889, and the position of the labourer is apparently no better as he has not benefited by sales of the surplus of preceding years. The ryots, i.e., the land-holding class must, however, have, at the commencement of the scarcity, been, as a rule, better off than usual. They must therefore have a larger capacity for employing agricultural labour than in 1889, and will more likely utilize their labour more largely in the ensuing hot weather in such works as converting dry fields into rice fields, and if the monsoon is an early and copious one, they should be able to employ men more largely than in 1889 over cultivation.

6. In comparing the expenditure likely to be incurred in the ensuing year with that of 1888-89, it must be remembered that in the latter year relief operations were

not undertaken until the beginning of June, and were, no doubt, much too long postponed. In the present season, I think, relief, both on works and gratuitous, will have to be given on a considerable scale from the beginning of March, and as no food crop will come in until September, we must assume that relief will have to be continued up to September or October. This was the experience in the last famine. A good south-west monsoon would, of course, take large numbers away from the relief works, but the numbers on gratuitous relief would not be so largely affected.

7. I enclose two statements. Statement No. I is intended to show for each taluk the amount that would be required for providing relief works for the same number of persons who came on the works in 1889 for six months. It shows also the works which, I consider, could with advantage be undertaken as relief works and which would prove either directly remunerative to the State or of permanent advantage to the people. It will be observed that, except in the Principal Assistant Collector's division, the expenditure on these works would exceed considerably the amount spent in 1888-89. A selection from these works for execution would, of course, be made later on.

8. Statement No. II is framed on the census returns of labourers (agricultural and others) and the proportion of persons in each taluk estimated to require relief, the number of those which are likely to come on large relief works and the amount required to provide for them.

These estimates are based upon my personal inspection of the taluks during the months of November and December, and to some extent on the forecasts of Divisional and Taluk Officers.

I can only say for them that they are the best guesses of what may be required that I can make.

I expect, for the reasons given in the earlier part of this letter, that they will prove overestimates if the next monsoon is a good and early one.

Column 8 of the statement shows that the amount required for large relief works would be Rs. 3,62,000.

Except in the Principal Assistant Collector's division, all this amount could be provided by works under the Public Works Department. In that division nearly one lakh would have to be provided from other sources, mainly Local Funds.

9. The balance of the population, who would not come to large relief works, will have to be relieved by finding them labour in the neighbourhood of their villages on such works as minor irrigation, the digging of wells, and improving the water-supply and by gratuitous relief.

10. *Gratuitous Relief.*—From statement No. III, herewith enclosed, it will be seen that in 1889 the average number of persons on gratuitous relief was 45,810. The cost of relieving these at the rate of 1½ anna per head for six months is Rs. 6,87,150. The actual cost incurred in 1889 was, however, Rs. 3,49,438. In 1889, relief works were not started systematically until June. This year if they are started early the need for gratuitous relief should never be as great as in that year, and I consider that an estimated expenditure of Rs. 3,00,000 under this head would be ample.

11. The amount, which can be provided for affording relief on works in the neighbourhood of villages, is limited by several considerations.

For minor irrigation works Rs. 34,000 are provided with reference to the estimates ready. Rs. 18,600, the expenditure on minor works specially intended for famine relief of the last famine, is repeated. Rs. 80,000 are provided for improvements to drinking-water supply. During the last famine Rs. 61,320 were spent under this head and the scarcity of water this season is much greater than then.

12. For advances to weavers and seed-grain advances, I would for the present repeat the figures of 1889. The Uriya ryots in this district are lazy and are therefore averse to well irrigation. In spite of the warnings of previous famines, they have not in the past taken advantage of the rules under the Loans Acts. I think Rs. 17,000 will suffice for loans, of which Rs. 6,000 are to be spent before the end of March next. These Rs. 6,000 have been sanctioned by the Board in its Proceedings (Revenue Settlement), Mis. No. 357, dated 16th January 1897. The balance required is therefore, only Rs. 11,000.

13. The following statement shows in one view the amounts spent in 1889 under the several heads of relief and the amounts I now anticipate may be needed for 1897:—

Description of Items.	Amount spent in the famine of 1889.	Amount now proposed for 1897.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4
<i>I.—Large Works.</i>			
Amount required for works under the Public Works Department.	Rs. 1,40,952	Rs. 2,62,246	The figures in column 2 are taken from Mr. Horstall's report at pages 44 and 45 of G.O., No. 1026, Revenue, dated 19th December 1890.
Amount to be spent by Local Fund Boards		71,562	
Total ..	1,40,952	3,33,808	
<i>II.—Other Minor Works.</i>			
Amount to be placed at the Collector's disposal—			
For minor irrigation works or Civil Agency works	14,410	34,000	
Other minor works specially intended for famine relief	18,322	18,600	
Improvement of water-supply—tanks and wells, Local Fund.	61,220	80,000	
Miscellaneous	606	600	
Total ..	94,958	1,33,200	
<i>III.—Advances.</i>			
Land Improvement Loans Act		7,000	
Advances under Agriculturists' Loans Act—			
1. For purchase of seed-grain	96,660	96,600	
2. Other relief		4,000	
Advances to weavers	72,890	72,890	
Total ..	1,69,550	1,83,490	
<i>IV.—Gratuitous relief</i>	3,49,440	3,00,000	
Grand Total ..	7,63,900	9,47,498	

N.B.—It will be seen that it is proposed to spend Rs. 1,51,662 from Local Funds. Roughly speaking one lakh of this amount would have to be advanced by Government.

The total sum arrived at is, roughly speaking, 9½ lakhs, or about 2 more lakhs than in 1889. The amount is large, and, I think, unless there is a failure of the next south-west monsoon, that these may be taken as outside figures; but at the same time I am not at present able to say any item is an overestimate.

A large demand for labour has sprung up at Cuttack for work on the Bengal-Nagpur line, on which liberal wages are given, and if I can succeed in inducing our coolies to emigrate there in large numbers, as I hope to do, the expenditure on relief of all kinds will be much diminished. The recruiters for tea estates in Assam and Cachar are now very active, and it is to be expected they will get large numbers to emigrate and this will further improve the situation. Early rains, especially if general over India, would probably cause surplus stocks now being held up, owing to a widespread idea that three years of famine are to be faced, to be bought out. Prices would, I think, drop sharply, and the situation would be much sooner relieved than in 1889, where relief had to be carried on extensively until October. So far the coolies resolutely refuse to come in for famine wages, and though there is no doubt they are in many places in need of work, it seems probable that for another month we will have very few on relief works.

14. I have not provided any relief works for the Parlakimedi estate. The Raja is ready to commence a large irrigation project at a cost of over three lakhs of rupees. This will afford ample work to the people of his estate and the surrounding parts, and I hope it will draw large numbers from Tekkali and Obicacole taluks and obviate the necessity of spending an unnecessary large amount there on Local Fund works. There will be no necessity for famine-relief works or gratuitous relief in the Agency Tracts. I have asked the Chairmen of the three Municipalities to state what works they would commence as relief works, if relief is found necessary within their Municipalities, and as all of them are without surplus funds, what amount of loans they require from Government. On receipt of their replies, I will separately address the Board on the subject.

Some of the richer zemindars and proprietors of this district, excluding Parlakimedi, have promised to spend about Rs. 35,850 on improving the irrigation works in their estates.

15. About the postponement of kists and remissions I will shortly address the Board.

16. For the extra establishment that may be required for famine duty, I will submit a separate application when the necessity arises.

READ—again telegram to the Collector of Ganjam, dated 4th February 1897, requesting him to submit revised estimates under heads quoted in B.P., No. 57 of 1897, for current and next official year, separately.

READ—also the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 6th February 1897, R.O. No. 375-F. :—

Referring to Board's telegram, dated 4th February 1897, I have the honour to submit herewith a revised estimate of famine-relief expenditure under the several heads mentioned in paragraph 6 of the India Government letter printed in B.P., No. 57, dated 25th January 1897. I enclose a copy of an estimate of famine expenditure I lately sent to the Accountant-General on an urgent call from him.

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of Resolution, Government of India (Finance and Commerce), I beg to point out that several of the relief works I propose are extensions of the Rushikulya canal system and the completion of the Lenada reservoir. The latter work would probably have been executed irrespective of famine at an early date, and probably should not therefore be shown under "Famine relief." The other extensions of the system I have proposed and which are not yet sanctioned are proposed in consequence of the impending scarcity to provide work which may yield a fair profit.

The construction too of the Kalikote-Boirani road and the Berhampur and Govindapur road are works approved of by Government before the occurrence of the present scarcity; but were it not for the necessity of providing relief, funds to the extent I have now proposed would not certainly have been allotted during the next year.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Heads.	1896-97.	1897-98.	Total.
1. Salaries and establishments*	Rs. 9,375	Rs. 62,625	Rs. 72,000
2. Relief works in charge of civil officers—			
(a) Communications	8,945	62,617	71,562
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improvements	12,400	86,300	98,700
(c) Irrigation	4,250	29,750	34,000
3. Relief works in charge of Public Works Department—			
(a) Communications	10,000	70,000	80,000
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improvements	7,781	54,465	62,246
(c) Irrigation	16,000	1,06,000	1,22,000
(d) Construction of Railways			
4. Relief to people employed otherwise than on relief-work—weavers	9,111	63,779	72,890
5. Gratuitous relief—			
(a) Given in Government institutions	18,750	1,31,250	1,50,000
(b) " at the houses of the people	18,750	1,31,250	1,50,000
(c) " in other ways			
6. Miscellaneous—			
(a) Advances under Loans Acts—			
1. Land Improvement Loans Act		7,000	
2. Agriculturists' Loans Act—			
(i) Seed grains		96,000	1,07,000
(ii) Other relief		4,000	
Total	1,14,362	9,08,136	10,22,498

* This item was not shown in this office letter, No. 105, dated 31st January 1897.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Copy of Revised Estimate for 1896-97 sent to the Accountant-General.

33. Famine relief.	Salaries and establishment.	Relief works in charge of civil officers.		Relief works under Public Works supervision, but paid by civil pay-masters.	Relief to people on other than relief works (weavers).	Gratuitous relief.	
	Provincial.	Provincial.	Local.	Provincial.	Provincial.	In Government institutions.	In other ways.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
..	Rs. 9,375	Rs. (a) 5,400	Rs. 18,945	Rs. 32,781	Rs. 9,111	Rs. 37,500	Rs. ..

Nothing has as yet been sanctioned by Government for expenditure on account of famine in the current year 1896-97. The amounts entered above are estimated to be required up to end of April 1897. No contribution is necessary from Provincial Funds to Local Funds in the current year. The District Board out of its balance sanctioned Rs. 26,000 in December last for expenditure in the current year on additional works and for drinking water-supply on account of the scarcity. There is no information ready in this office as to how much of this has been spent up to date. It has to be obtained from the Local Fund Engineer and Presidents, Taluk Boards.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Copy of Budget Estimate for 1897-98 sent to the Accountant-General.

33. Famine relief.	Salaries and establishment.	Relief works in charge of civil officers.		Relief works under Public Works supervision, but paid by civil pay-masters.	Relief to people on other than relief works (weavers).	Gratuitous relief.	
	Provincial.	Provincial.	Local.	Provincial.	Provincial.	In Government institutions.	In other ways.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
..	Rs. 65,625	Rs. (b) 37,800	Rs. 1,32,617	Rs. 2,29,465	Rs. 63,779	Rs. 2,62,500	Rs. ..

The above amounts are estimated to be required for famine expenditure from April to October 1897. Out of Rupees 1,32,617 entered in column 4 rupees one lakh may probably have to be contributed to the District Board by Government. In addition to the amounts given above, the following advances will have to be given under Loans Acts.

Agriculturists' Loans Act—

	Rs.
For purchase of seed grain	96,000
For relief	4,000
Land Improvement Loans Act	7,000
Total	1,07,000

(a) and (b) These figures have been raised to Rs. 5,650 and Rs. 46,560 in the estimate sent to Board.

RESOLUTION—dated 12th February 1897, No. 130.

The estimates submitted by the Collector of Ganjam under section 38 of the Famine Code will be submitted for the information and orders of Government.

2. The Collector has framed his estimates on the experience of 1889; for, although in some ways he regards the situation as more favourable than in that year, in other respects, especially as to the range of prices, it is undoubtedly worse. The Board considers that the Collector's forecast is unduly gloomy, and that, if adequate measures of relief are taken in time, and relief be administered ungrudgingly, there should, unless the next south-west monsoon rains fail, or are unduly delayed, be no necessity for continuing relief measures beyond July. In 1889, relief had to be continued much longer, because it was not given early enough. The same reason necessitated the large amount of gratuitous relief that was given.

3. In the current year, the loss of crop has probably been more extensive than it was in 1888-89; but against this is the fact that the district has recently had a series of good seasons, and that of late years large sums of public money have been expended in it; whilst a rise in prices was inevitable as soon as the full effect of the opening of the East Coast Railway had been felt.

4. The Collector's estimate, based on the number of persons of different classes as shown in the village census tables, is, the Board fears, not of any value, owing to doubts as to the classification adopted in the latter. Still it may be accepted that, as the Collector estimates, from one-eighth to one-fourth of the agricultural and other labourers of the district will need relief for six months. The total number thus arrived at is 64,414—half for three months and half for six. The numbers taken by the Collector for the purpose of calculation, however, include all dependants of the classes mentioned. The Collector shows that ample works are ready to provide for the numbers he expects will need relief on works, and the completion of the Rushikulya Project and the preparation of broken ballast for the use of the East Coast Railway, as well as the execution of ordinary public works, will suffice. The total estimates of the Collector for relief on works are—

	1896-97.	1897-98.
	RS.	RS.
Under Civil Officers	25,595	1,79,167
„ Public Works Department	32,781	2,29,465

The Board does not anticipate that relief on works will be required for more than four months, unless the south-west monsoon fails, and probably an estimate of 25,000 persons per diem, or say 3 lakhs in all, will suffice; of this, not more than 0.5 lakh is likely to be required this year.

5. As to gratuitous relief, for reasons already stated, the Board considers the Collector's estimate excessive, and it will suffice to make provision for a daily average of 10,000 persons for four months. At the Collector's rate this would require 1.50 lakhs, and this should be enough.

6. Funds required for carrying on operations for the relief of weavers have, under G.O., No. 30, Revenue, dated 15th January 1897, to be classed under sub-head "4. Relief to people employed otherwise than on relief works," and should not, the Board considers, be treated as advances to weavers, as they formerly were, but in this respect the Accountant-General will be requested to issue clear instructions appropriate to the case. The sum required in Ganjam may be put at 0.75 lakh, of which Rs. 10,000, not Rs. 20,000 as stated in B.P., dated 26th January 1897, No. 75, will be required this year.

7. The requirements in the way of loans will be separately dealt with, and the Collector's provision for special establishments may be accepted. The total estimate, as revised by the Board, therefore works out as follows :—

Heads.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	RS.	RS.
1. Salaries and establishments	9,400	65,600
2. Relief works in charge of civil officers	50,000	2,50,000
3. „ „ „ Public Works Department	10,000	65,000
4. Relief to people employed otherwise than on relief works	30,000	1,20,000
5. Gratuitous relief	...	...
6. Miscellaneous	...	...
Total	99,400	5,00,600

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
 „ Collector of Ganjam.
 „ Accountant-General.

Er. Shaili Karim.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed February 19th.

Proceedings, 12th Feb. 1897, No. 130.

Relief charges.—Submitting to Government
application from the Collector for funds for — in
the Ganjam district.

The Hon. Mr. Grebe CSE
The Hon. Mr. Sullivan CSE
Sir E. M. G. G. G.

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29/2/97

24/2/97

CND/53-3

G.O. No. 1127 of 25th Feb. 97

Recorded with reference to

para 2 of G.O. No. 164 of 18 Feb. 97

1/2/97

To
To Mr. Board (left)
The Hon. Mr. G.
To Mr. A. G.

24-3-3-97

Note.

The estimates proposed by the Board compare
with those in G.O. No. 164 of 18 Feb. 97 as follows.

	Budget 1897-8	Revised 1896-7
mil ps	3.00	1.05
Board -	5.00	5.89
	1.60	1.22

2. a copy of this NO. has
already been sent to the agent,
who will submit to the revised figures
in accordance with para 2 of G.O. No. 164
of 18 Feb. 97. It seems appropriate therefore
if a copy of this is sent to the Hon.
Dept. and the A. G.

RS
22-2-97

1/2/97

C. 22/2/97

22/2/97

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189 .

READ WITH G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAKES NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

N.B. -

A = Copy in full
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only
Q = Copy heading only