

205 of 1

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1234

DATED 5th March 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Copy to the Bd. of Rev (Rev. Secy) letter from
the Govt. of India regarding the continuance
of the half-monthly return of prices of food-
grains etc.

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. 1809

1/13/97

Order No. 1234 of 5th Mar 1897

Communicated to
the Board of Rev.

From

Director General of Statistics

No. 25 P. & A

Dated 22 - 2 - 97

Received 27 - 2 - 97

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Enclosures

Spare copies

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1/13/97

Let
to the B^d of Rev (Rev. Letter).
Feb. 8 - 3 - 97

SUBJECT.

Regarding the half-monthly
return of retail prices
of food-grains.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 25 P. & W.

STATISTICAL BUREAU, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

(Prices and Wages.)

To THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 22nd February 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 8 and 3924, dated the 10th January and 1st October 1896, on the subject of the half-monthly return of retail prices of food-grains and salt now prepared in the Madras Presidency for transmission to the Government of India.

The Government of Madras propose the discontinuance of this return and the substitution for it of one or other of two season reports compiled for local purposes, one weekly and the other monthly, containing the average retail price of food-grains for each district for each week or month.

2. The half-monthly return of retail prices is, together with similar returns from other provinces, published in a consolidated table in the *Gazette of India*, and it also forms the basis of a return of annual averages which is printed in a volume issued annually under the name of "Prices and Wages in India." This volume has now reached its thirteenth issue. It contains a record of prices since 1861, and it is now recognised in other countries as well as in India as a work of record and reference whose value increases each year. Since 1873 the figures have been compiled on the present basis which was prescribed by the Government of India. The return enables comparison to be made over a long period in respect of the level of prices in Madras, and it also permits of comparison of the relative levels of prices in Madras and in all the other provinces in India where half-monthly returns are prepared in precisely the same method as the returns from Madras.

3. The figures in the half-monthly return represent actual prices at certain stations on certain days (the 15th and last day of each month), while those which the Government of Madras propose to substitute for them represent averages for the whole of a district. Even if averages computed in local offices may be accepted as being as trustworthy as actuals in a particular place on a particular day, it is evident that the change effected by the substitution would be so great as to make impossible any comparison with the figures which have now for many years been published by the Government of India. This result, involving as it does a complete solution of continuity in work which is of such a character that its nature should be changed as little as possible, and which grows more valuable as each year passes, does not commend itself to the Government of India, and I am desired to say that they would prefer to maintain the present return.

4. The Government of India also are desirous that the prices of salt should not be omitted, but they agree that it is unnecessary that the prices of firewood should any longer be recorded, and these need no longer be rendered.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. E. Connor
Director-General of Statistics.

CC

Statistical Bureau,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
(Prices and Wages)

To
THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. 25 P. & W.

Dated Calcutta, the 22nd February 1897.

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When copied _____ 189.
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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

Usefulness of the half-monthly return of retail prices of
food grains. Omission from the return of the head
"Firewood."

G. I. C. P. O.—No 846 F. & C. D.—22-2-97.—230.—R. N. D.

N.B.—

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