

Revenue (189 /) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 170

DATED 11. Jan'y 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P., communicating instructions
of Govt. re the special fortnightly relief
returns prescribed by Govt.

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. /

From

The Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

Madras

No. 8 Press

Dated 5th January 1897

Received 9th

Registered 9th

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Fortnightly Relief Returns -

Communicating instructions
of Government regarding the
Special - prescribed by Government.

Order nisi No. 170. 27th 11th 1897.

Recorded

11/11/97

KO
9/1/97
div

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 5TH JAN. 1897, No. 8.

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

READ—the following G.O., Mis. No. 751, Revenue, dated 26th December 1896 :—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 30th November 1896, No. 373, Press.

Order—Mis. No. 751, Revenue, dated 26th December 1896.

The objections raised by the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings read above to the returns prescribed in G.O., No. 600, dated 11th November 1896, arise from a complete misapprehension of the purpose which those returns are intended to serve. The Government merely wished to provide the Local Supervising officers, the Board and itself with a means of seeing that the task set was duly enforced, but not to have a complete statement of the work done or to establish an audit either in the Board's office or its own. Local officers, no doubt, admit in theory that tasks are necessary to prevent persons from coming to relief works to get doles before they need them, for the preservation of life and health, in the certain hope that they will get the doles as gifts without having to work for them. Nevertheless, from the returns already submitted, the Government observes that local officers often fail in practice altogether, impose any tasks and do not enforce those imposed. The returns were expressly prescribed to strengthen their hands. With these remarks, the Government will proceed to examine the Board's objections *seriatim*.

2. The *first* objection is that the preparation of the return involves an immense amount of extra work and will need extra establishments. It is observed from the Section 98, Appendix III—Form D, and rule 11 of Appendix VI. marginally-noted provisions of the Famine Code that the head cooly of each gang

maintains a permanent nominal roll consisting of two parts. In the second part thereof all the particulars required for filling in form No. I now prescribed by Government are entered each day. To prepare form No. I from the particulars it is necessary only to total the figures for the period required and post the totals for each gang for each work. The compilation of the returns will not therefore be a matter of great difficulty, can be done by the overseer's clerk and cannot need any extra establishments. The Government is, however, willing to obtain returns furnishing the required particulars for each gang on the *last day of the fortnight* only.

3. The second objection—that the returns will not afford any test of the supervision exercised—proceeds as observed in paragraph 1 above, directly from misapprehension of their purpose.

4. With regard to the third objection—that the returns cannot be got through in time—the Board is reminded that in 1877–78 when there were many hundred thousands of persons on the works the returns of Saturday were in the Board's office on Tuesday and were reviewed and submitted to Government by Thursday. Orders are issuing separately requesting the Commissioners of Land Revenue to arrange for the disposal of famine papers. As the returns under consideration have to be examined merely to see whether tasks have been enforced no unnecessary delay need occur in their submission to Government.

5. The Government does not see the force of the Board's fourth objection that there are difficulties in compiling the returns. It is unnecessary to give the figures for each day for each gang. If the aggregate of workers, the aggregate task and the amount thereof which has been turned out be reported, a clear insight as to whether

adequate task is being enforced, and an adequate quantity of it is turned out will be obtained. Gangs which are paid minimum wages need not be struck out. If there are many of them, the quantity of work will be so reduced as to attract attention and call for an enquiry. Similarly if deductions are being made the fact must at once come to the notice of the superior officers and the provisions of the Code in that behalf can be put in motion.

6. In reply to its fifth objection the Board is informed that check measurements by Tahsildars will be quite enough, as it is only necessary to know that tasks are being enforced, or that the coolies are getting the full benefit of their work. It is obvious that any manipulation of measurements might render the whole system of the Code nugatory.

7. The remarks in paragraph 1 of this order contain a sufficient reply to the last objection. What is intended is, as said above, that all superior officers should have a ready means of finding out if there is anything wrong in the working of what is the most important matter in relief works, *i.e.*, the tasking of the gangs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

RESOLUTION—dated 5th January 1897, No. 8.

Communicated to the Collectors of the affected districts for information and guidance.

2. Collectors will observe that, together with his weekly report under Rule 22 of Appendix VI to the Famine Code, the Overseer in charge of each work must now, on every alternate week, submit to the Tahsildar a statement in form 1 prescribed in G.O., No. 600, Revenue, dated 11th November 1896, for each gang under him on that day only. In this return, it will be observed that only the rateable "deductions in pay to be made" in respect to the work of the day in question are to be entered in column 11, not the deductions actually made by the paymasters, under Rule 28 of Appendix VI "on the total outturn of the days for which payment is made" which appear in column 10 of Part II of Form E (Appendix II). Similarly, the other columns of the form can be filled up from the head-maistry's permanent registers—Rule 18 of Appendix VI,—and not as specified in the forms already supplied.

3. Tahsildars will compile the returns as soon as received and deal with them as laid down in section 54 of the Code, and from these the Collector will prepare a consolidated return for the information of the Board and Government. Divisional officers and Collectors should carefully examine the returns in the light of the remarks made in paragraphs 1 and 7 of the order read above.

4. The attention of Collectors is also drawn to paragraph 6 of the order.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Collectors of affected districts.
„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ all other Collectors.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 17, 1897.

Proceedings, 5th Jan. 1897, No. 8.

Relief Returns.—Communicating instructions of
Government regarding the special -- prescribed.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DATA

APPROVED NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

A A A A A A A

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only