

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No./808

DATED 3rd April 97

REV

1897

G.O. No. 1808.

3-4-97

23⁵/₉₆ 297/96 Goodman
RH

22⁷/₉₆ Rm 683

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm^d to the B. of Rev. Pres. Fin. Dept.
Telegraphing to the Col^l of Vizagapatnam that
Rs 2000 have been sanctioned for relief works
& Rs 1200 for gratuitous relief.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government (1897) of Madras. FINANCIAL.

9/4/97.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 288, 29th March 1897.

MARCH.

*GO. nuni NO. 18084 3rd April 97
Communicated to
the Bd of Rev. 13/4/97.*

*To
2 The Bd. of Rev. Rs. 6.4.97
Rs.
3-4-97*

Famine Relief.

Telegraphing to the Collector of Vizagapatam that Rs. 2,000 have been sanctioned for relief works and Rs. 1,200 for gratuitous relief; and authorizing the Accountant-General to place the amounts at the disposal of the Collector.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 1625, Revenue, dated 25th March 1897.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 11th March 1897, No. 221:—

Read—the following Fortnightly Narrative for the Vizagapatam district during the period ending 28th February 1897:—

STATE OF COUNTRY.

Rainfall and Water-supply.

District rainfall.				Actual rainfall.	Expected rainfall.
				INCHES.	INCHES.
In the fortnight				0.38	0.30
Up to the fortnight from April				34.98	53.11

There was very good rain in Golconda, Gajapatinagaram, Vizianagram taluks and portions of Binnipatan, Srungavarapukota, Palkonda, Sálúru, Bobbili and Chápurupalle; a few drops only in Sarvasiddhi and none in Vizagapatam. The trouble about drinking-water is eased in almost all places except the coast taluks where it remains most serious, but efforts are being made to meet it.

Agricultural operations and condition of standing crops.—Ploughing general wherever the rain fell. Gingelly, indigo and green-gram are being sown in many places. The few standing dry crops benefited much from the rain, as also did the paira ragi and the garden crops under wells, of which every village, where water can be found by digging, has a fair amount standing; sugarcane is being harvested still. The outturn is from poor to middling. Ragi under wells has been harvested in parts with fair outturn.

Supply of fodder and pasture and condition of cattle.—Fodder is very scarce. It even pays ryots of Sarvasiddhi taluk to take bandies to Gódávári and import it for sale. Grass is much refreshed wherever the recent rain fell. In Vizagapatam taluk there appears to be none and it is marvellous where the grass-cutters produce it from. Cattle of any value are well. Inferior and uncared for cattle look very poor in parts, but I believe as much from want of water as that of food.

General remarks on above subjects.—The rain has done good by encouraging agricultural work and increasing supplies of drinking-water and pasture.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND THE STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Prices of principal food-grains at principal markets in the affected tracts, in seers of 80 tolas per rupee, for the period ending 28th February 1897.

Stations	Rice.		Ragi.		Cumbu.		Remarks.
	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	End of last fortnight.	End of current fortnight.	
1. Párvatipuram ..	10.86	10.86	18.00	18.00	17.50	17.50	The fall in rice at Sálúru is due to cholera keeping away traders. Ragi has risen in the south of the district owing to falling off in the imports from Gódávári. Similarly cumbu.
2. Sálúru ..	9.84	10.25	16.20	17.28	15.75	16.80	
3. Palkonda ..	9.60	9.60	16.16	16.16	21.78	20.79	
4. Gajapatinagaram ..	9.84	9.84	17.76	17.76	15.84	17.28	
5. Chápurupalle ..	9.43	9.43	15.84	15.84	17.28	17.28	
6. Vizianagram ..	9.04	9.04	16.16	16.16	15.34	15.84	
7. Vizagapatam ..	9.26	9.26	15.65	15.65	14.65	14.96	
8. Chódavaramu ..	9.50	9.50	19.11	19.11	18.48	18.48	
9. Anakápallo ..	9.50	9.50	16.38	15.47	..	14.08	
10. Yellamanchili ..	9.50	9.50	16.38	14.56	..	..	
11. Narasapatnam ..	9.87	10.34	18.48	17.64	17.82	16.20	
Average ..	9.65	9.73	16.92	16.60	17.16	16.92	

Activity of trade.—Trade continues active and even small ryots engage in import from Jeypore and Gódávári as a speculation.

Imports.—By rail 32,841 maunds for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897.

By sea 2,199 maunds for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897.

By road from Jeypur 6,366 cart-loads for the fortnight ending 28th February 1897.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The condition of the working classes is good or normal. There is as yet no demand for employment which cannot be met by ordinary works. The most careful enquiries are being made and directed as to the existence of a demand for employment in any locality which would give a test work a chance of success. None such is reported from anywhere. The people to whom the terms of relief work have been explained seem to regard them as unworthy of consideration. I believe that, in this district, it will be found that a very considerable degree of positive distress will be required to induce people to come to famine work and that to induce them to do so before they are, to some extent, both mentally and physically distressed, will be found impossible. At present the working classes must, no doubt, be stinting themselves, but they are not nearly so much so as to induce them to do a full day's work for the price of two ragi meals.

As regards the condition of the non-working classes—I mean those who never will work—that is the decrepit, aged, the blind, lame, lepers, beggars and other persons, who at all times live by charity, I see a change for the worse since my return from Jeypur. In Vizianagram and Vizagapatam beggars are more in evidence and in worse conditions than they were before and unorganised charity does not fully meet their requirements. The kitchens proposed by Raja Gajapati Rao will do much good, but I may very soon find it necessary to propose the administration of relief to this class at Government kitchens in a few places.

The ordinary people in villages are in normal condition according to the reports of my officers, and also so far as I have seen myself. I am now carefully inspecting selected villages in Anakápallo and Sarvasiddhi taluks.

Sickness and mortality.—Cholera is prevalent in Sálúru and Srungavarapukota taluks and in a few villages of most taluks. No deaths from starvation.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

Then as to works in the Public Works Department programme I have not been able to obtain from the Executive Engineer any information as to what is likely to be carried on, but I have obtained from the Sub-Divisional officer a list of estimates prepared within the last three months for none of which has sanction been received. These are all in the Sarvasiddhi taluk where work would do much good and they include large amounts of earthwork. I do not think that the spirit of G.O., No. 58, Financial, dated 23rd January 1897, is being acted up to.

[illegible]

Read—also the following weekly season report for Vizagapatam district for week ending 6th March 1897:—

Water for cultivation only by baling from wells; drinking-water very scarce in parts. Every endeavour being made to improve supply. Transplanted sugarcane one taluk. Wet crop only sugarcane under wells. Dry crops under wells doing fairly. Harvested sugarcane nine taluks, ragi 5, and tobacco 4, outturn in all middling; chillies in 4, bengal-gram in two, poor. Pasture very scarce where no rain fell, but improved in other places. Fodder very dear but procurable; cattle getting thin in places as much from want of water as food. Prospects bad; cholera prevailing in eight taluks in plains, one in agency tracts; 201 attacks, 70 deaths. People are in want of work in parts. A test work will be opened at Dokmarri to-morrow. Gratuitous relief to destitute non-workers advisable in large centres. Funds applied for; am conducting careful enquiries as to likely localities for test works; expect to have to open one or two more shortly. One will be required in Sarvasiddhi taluk, unless ordinary public works expanded very early. Food-grains imported by sea 2,054 maunds, imported from Jeypore 4,077 carts, also considerable local import from Gódvári by road; exported by rail 114 maunds, imported 7,595 maunds. Emigrants to Burma 43.

Read—also the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 4th March 1897, No. Y-Tour:—

In my fortnightly narrative despatched yesterday, I made some remarks about the provision of work in this district by the Public Works Department, and I have the honour now to report that I inspected to-day a good many villages in the Sarvasiddhi taluk lying south of Yellamanchili and also the stone-breaking work which the district board is carrying on at quarries in the same neighbourhood. This part of the Sarvasiddhi taluk is very badly off. The Local Fund Board has been doing all it can by employing coolies at metal breaking, at first by daily labour and afterwards, when it was found that it was found to be impossible to arrange to pay individual coolies satisfactorily by means of petty contract given to working coolies who make up their own gangs. This has done much good, but the number applying are inclined to increase, as I have ordered that work be given to all who want it, and they may increase to an extent which cannot be coped with under the present ordinary system. This will drive us to open test works, and to give these any chance of success it will be necessary to close the ordinary works. This will amount to starving the coolies into accepting famine work, which it seems a pity to do if they can be usefully employed otherwise.

2. In my opinion if plenty of ordinary work is made available, test works will not become necessary in this part of the district before the south-west monsoon, but the district board is unable to do enough by itself.

3. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have to-day addressed to the Executive Engineer which explains the position, but the result of previous correspondence with the Public Works Department in this district does not lead me to suppose that this will be sufficient, and I therefore beg that the Board will be pleased to request Government to issue specific orders that ordinary work will be pleased to request Department in this district be provided without unnecessary delay, and by 1st April at latest. If anything is to be done usefully, it is essential that it should be done at once.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. O. HORNE, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam division, dated 4th March 1897, No. nil.

In continuation of my letter, No. nil, enquiring about projected work in the neighbourhood of Dimile, Sarvasiddhi taluk, to which I have as yet received no reply, I have the honour to request that you will, if possible, take steps to get sanction for and to put in hand some considerable

work or works, of which a fair proportion should be earthwork, in the neighbourhood of Rayavaram, Dimile, Purushottapuram or immediately adjacent parts of Sarvasiddhi taluk. Work is needed by the people there and the local boards are providing what they can, but it is insufficient, and it is certain that if your department is unable also to put in hand work which will afford ordinary employment to the working classes, we shall be driven at an early date to regular famine works. If, on the other hand, in accordance with the recent orders of Government, ordinary works are expanded to a reasonable extent, I do not anticipate that famine works will be necessary. I have obtained from Mr. Haukins a note of estimates submitted for sanction within the last three months, in which I find several works which would exactly answer requirements; I may instance the estimate for Rs. 28,000 for Tatakulapalem channel and subsidiary works and those amounting to Rs. 16,840—all earthwork, or nearly so—for the embankment of the Varaha river. I request that you will take early steps to get some of these works put in hand by the 1st April next at latest.

Read—also the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 7th March 1897, R.C. No. 840:—

I have the honour, as I have intimated already, to inform you that, in my opinion, the time has come when it is necessary to administer relief to some of those classes of people who are unable to work and who can only properly be relieved gratuitously. I think that during the present month it will be necessary to open kitchens at or near Vizianagram, Bimlipatam and Párvatipuram, and more may probably be necessary at the beginning of next month.

2. I have the honour, under section 38 of the Famine Code, to apply for a grant of Rs. 1,200 for expenditure in the current year on gratuitous relief at kitchens. My estimate is, of course, very rough, but I take it that perhaps 800 people may require to be fed at the kitchens indicated. This will cost for the last half of this month about Rs. 800.

Construction of each kitchen, Rs. 100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 300
Establishment—								
Three Superintendents at Rs. 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Six warders at Rs. 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nine water women at Rs. 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Six cooks at Rs. 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Six scavengers at Rs. 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
								800
Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,180
								20
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Total ... 1,200

3. I have already reported that a test work will be opened in a day or two. I propose to do this from Local Funds; but I am not quite sure whether, under G.O., No. 352 L., dated 18th February 1897, this is legal. If not, I request sanction for Rs. 2,000 to be placed at my disposal under 33. Famine Relief—(2) Relief works in charge of Civil officers—(a) Communications. I should be obliged if the sanction for the kitchens were communicated by wire. I will instruct the local officers to make the necessary preparations in advance.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1897, No. 221.

The papers read above will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The situation in Vizagapatam remains practically unaltered so far as the state of the country is concerned, and prices are fairly steady, whilst trade is active and grain is being imported in large quantities.

3. The people are reported to be in good condition, but it is evident that the inauguration of relief measures cannot be much longer delayed. The people are loath to accept relief on works, but it is not clear that they fully understand that the relief worker's wage is not meant to serve for the support of their dependants who will be gratuitously relieved at kitchens. This should be clearly explained to all who come to the test works and provision should be made that the kitchens opened are adequate and well provided.

4. The Collector's wish to expand ordinary works in parts of his district, expressed in his letter No. Y-tour, dated 4th current, will be submitted to Government for consideration, with the Board's request that the Public Works Department may be directed to open such works as the Collector desires in the localities mentioned by him. The Collector's letter No. Y-tour, dated 4th March 1897, is also submitted in original.

5. The Collector's proposal to offer gratuitous relief at kitchens at Vizianagram, Bimlipatam and Párvatipuram has the Board's approval, but care must be taken that no one is admitted to the kitchen registers who is not qualified under section 62 of the code. His application for the grant of funds to meet charges on these kitchens will be submitted to Government for sanction. The Collector should now draw up an estimate of the probable expenditure that may be necessary for the relief of distress between this and the opening of the south-west monsoon.

6. The Government will also be requested to place Rs. 2,000 at the disposal of the Collector for relief works to be executed by civil officers. G.O., No. 352 L., dated 18th February 1897, does not appear to have been communicated to this department.

7. The attention of Government will be drawn to the Collector's concluding remarks in his fortnightly narrative with the request that the Public Works Department officers concerned may be called upon for an explanation.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter No. Y-Tour, dated 4th March 1897, from the
Collector of Vizagapatam.
Copy to the Collector of Ganjám.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

Order--Mis. No. 1625, Revenue, dated 25th March 1897.

Recorded.

2. Orders will issue in the Financial Department placing a sum of Rs. 2,000 at the disposal of the Collector for relief works and Rs. 1,200 for gratuitous relief.

3. Explanation has already been called for from the Public Works Department with reference to the shortcomings noticed by the Collector in the concluding portion of his narrative.

4. Ordered that the following telegram be despatched to the Collector:—
"Your letter to Board 7th instant. Proposals gratuitous relief sanctioned."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.

ORDER—No. 288, Financial, dated 29th March 1897.

The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector of Vizagapatam:—

"218. Rs. 2,000 for relief works and 1,200 for gratuitous relief sanctioned."

2. The Accountant-General is authorized to place the amount at the disposal of the Collector from savings under 11. Forest.

(True Extract.)

Adm. eff.
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓
" Accountant-General.
Editors' Table.