

Revenue (1897) Department.

ROUTINE SERIES.

G.O., No. 2053

DATED 22nd April

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. in dining the admission
into kitchen of children showing signs of
emaciation whose parents are employed
otherwise than on relief works.

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.

21/4/97

From

The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land Record
and Agriculture, Madras

Order misc. No. 2053 of 22nd April 97

1/19.4.97.

No. 264 Press

Dated 1st April 1897

Recorded

P. M. 4/97.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

List

RS
21-4-97

Board (left). West 23/4/97

SUBJECT.

Kitchens -

Note. The BP was apparently written before the receipt of the large famine relief of children showing signs of the W. can now order provisions emaciation where their parents are employed otherwise than as relief workers.

21/4/97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
B.R.	153	Letter	25.1.97
	114 (C)		23.2.97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed April th.

Proceedings, 1st April 1897, No. 264.

APRIL.

Kitchens.--Ordering the admission into -- of children showing signs of emaciation where their parents are employed otherwise than on relief works.

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

READ—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 23rd March 1897, C. No. 1415:—

I have the honour to request the favour of the Board's instructions as to whether children of labourers who are found in comparatively poor condition may be admitted into the kitchens for receiving gratuitous relief when such labourers have not offered themselves for work at the relief works. A case is now in point. At Bukkapatnam, though work was offered at famine wages, the labourers have not availed themselves of it, and it is clear that there is still some outside demand for employment in that locality though not as brisk and constant as can be desired. But the Head Assistant Collector reports that there are several cases of half starved and emaciated children of the labourers belonging to the Panchama class, and I myself noticed a number of them in January last at Putaparthi and other adjoining villages (*vide* my remarks in page 6 of B.P., dated 26th January 1897, No. 53). The kitchen was at first opened for the benefit of such children as it was then expected that the labourers would attend the work. But in fact besides a few admissions of destitutes and cripples into the kitchen on the day of its opening, none came up for work.

2. Section 64 of the Famine Code directs that such relief should be given to "all who cannot earn wages on relief works and are otherwise unable to support themselves," and section 62 restricts such aid "to those who have no well-to-do friends or relatives on the spot on whom their support would ordinarily and rightly devolve." If the parents of the children under reference are held to come within the terms of section 62, then such children have to be rejected as inadmissible. These parents are presumably earning higher rates of wages than the famine wage, but at the same time it is clear enough that the margin over the famine wage is, in several cases, inadequate for the maintenance of a number of dependants and children where such exist. The reluctance to receive famine wages results in partial stinting in their daily food as already reported in my letter, Ref. on Cur. No. 1180, dated 24th March 1897, and the children as a consequence are insufficiently fed. If they are allowed to shift for themselves, it is clear that the gratuitous aid when given later on will in some cases be almost too late in restoring them to health. It seems therefore advisable to allow some discretion in the matter and authorise the Tahsildar of the taluk to admit such children also after the necessary inquiries regarding the means of their parents. Such a course will not only benefit the labourer by giving him more remunerative wages, but will also provide a healthy and salutary check on an undesirable rush to the relief works—there is not much fear of it, however, just now—as it will not fail to ensure that the demand for field employment, &c., will be wholly availed of before the relief works are resorted to. If the eligibility to the kitchens is restricted only to the relief workers' children, a premium is put on attendance at relief works which may involve the State in much extra and probably unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, when the distress greatly deepens in the affected localities.

RESOLUTION—dated 1st April 1897, No. 264.

The class of children referred to by the Collector would fall into the category of the persons entitled to gratuitous relief under section 62 of the Famine Code. Where, however, the parents do not come to the work, the Collector should make the most careful inquiries and satisfy himself that the parents are actually unable to feed their children and that the latter will suffer if not admitted to the kitchen. The reverse case, when the parent comes to the work, but refuses to send his children to the kitchen is much more common. In announcing the spirit of the policy that should guide famine relief operations, the Secretary of State for India has accepted the responsibility of Government to afford such relief to the population as shall keep them in a state of health and fitness for work. In the case submitted by the Collector, although the parents have not yet been compelled to accept work at famine rates, the children are showing undoubted evidences of deterioration, and if they are not relieved, they will assuredly fall into a condition from which a considerable number of them will never fully recover. Under such circumstances, they may be admitted to kitchens for gratuitous relief.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Kodumani
For Famine Secretary.

To the Collector of Anantapur.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Collectors of other affected districts, for information and guidance
" to all other Collectors.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL

PAPERS NOT BOUND UP, BRING WANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.