Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2635

DATED 22nd May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording in Papers with the Collector of Arundapur that shelter sheds should not be provided for the protection of labourers from the sun when actually engaged in work pursuant instructions re: the building of labourers.

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 DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
26 APR 97

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

Printed April th.

Proceedings, 3rd April 1897, No. 273.

APRIL.

Shelter-sheds.—Agreeing with the Collector that — should not be provided for the protection of labourers from the sun when actually engaged in work, and issuing instructions regarding the hutting of labourers.

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, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 26th March 1897, Dis. No. 1561:—

With reference to the Board's remarks in paragraph 8 of its Proceedings, dated the 8th current, No. 200, I have the honour to inform the Board that I have never prohibited the construction of sheds for the benefit of the relief-workers for the purpose indicated by the Board, as I am fully aware that such accommodation is necessary and can be provided for under article 7 of appendix 6 of the Famine Code. In fact before the receipt of the Board's orders referred to I had in one case drawn the attention of the Divisional Officer to the necessity of providing similar shelter where, on inspection, I found that beyond a few umbrageous trees near the site no further accommodation was available. What I did take exception to was the Assistant Engineer's action in having ordered about 2,000 bamboo mats, costing about Rs. 1,000 for one taluk only (Gooty), without obtaining my previous sanction thereto evidently with the object of affording protection to coolies from sun when *they were actually engaged in work*. On my reference to him the Assistant Engineer informed me that he acted under the orders of the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, and I thereon suggested to the latter officer the desirability of his forwarding any orders he wished to issue on non-professional matters to the Assistant Engineer through me unless they were urgent. The Superintending Engineer has since replied that he could not comply with my request and thinks it the "height of inhumanity to refuse to provide shelter for relief-workers breaking metal under a March sun."

2. It is obviously unnecessary for me to go into the question how far the Code contemplates the provision of such shelter as is urged on by the Superintending Engineer. Apart from this I need hardly add that, in a matter like this, which is entirely non-professional, I should have ordinarily expected to have been previously consulted. If the humanitarian principle so forcibly dwelt upon by the Superintending Engineer is to be pushed to its logical conclusion it must at once become evident that not only the portion of the workers sitting and breaking metal would require shelter in the shape of sheds but also the greater number of them straying out in different directions for miles and furlongs for collection thereof would require umbrellas to screen them from the sun. I am sure that such expenditure before being incurred would require the previous sanction of Government, and this not having been obtained I took steps to have the orders countermanded.

Resolution—dated 3rd April 1897, No. 273.

Huts should not be provided for the protection of labourers from the sun, when actually engaged in work. Advantage should, however, be taken of the shade of trees, where this is possible without interfering with work.

2. The Board agrees with the Collector that such a large expenditure upon an unprofessional matter should not have been directed by the Superintending Engineer without ascertaining whether the Collector considered it necessary.

3. The Board is, however, in accord with the Superintending Engineer as to the extreme severity of the test which requires workers to toil all day under the Deccan sun, and, unfortunately, there are, as a rule, no trees on the Deccan works to afford shelter. The Government of the North-Western Provinces, in a communication sent for information by the Madras Government, was of opinion that workers should be employed in their villages during the months of April and May, so as to avoid the terrible heat. The Famine Code, however does not provide for such alleviations of the workers' lot. It does, however, provide that huts should be erected to house those who come from a distance, and the huts so erected would, at least, supply shade during the midday pause, and should be provided to some extent. It is always desirable that there should be some such shelter where nursing mothers may retire with their babies, and where the latter may be left in their cradles, if the mother can induce them to remain there. Further than this, the Code does not sanction expenditure.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
" Copy to the Collectors of affected districts for information.

Ead A. F. Eccleston.

No. 87.

Revenue Secretariat,

7th May 1897.

My dear Shipley,

The Govt desires to have a copy of the Superintending engineer's ~~letter~~ reply referred to in the last sentence of para 1 of your predecessor's letter printed in B.P. 278 d/ 8.4.97. - Settlement.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) G. Stokes.

The Hon: ble Sir Charles Ollivant
H.E. the Governor

Rec'd C. No. 3250

G. O. Mis. No. 2635 d/ 22nd May 97.

Recorded

11/5/97

Board's letter 26/5/97

Note. The Collector states that he asked the Supdtg Engineer to issue all orders to the Assistant Engineer on non-professional matters connected with relief unless they were urgent but works through him and that the Supdtg Engineer has replied that he could not comply with the request. It is submitted that the Supdtg Engineer (the same, presumably, that issued on his own authority an order that nursing mothers should be treated as 1½ child units for work) should be told that he should comply with the Collector's request

Nothing more can be done for sheltering coolies ~~while they are~~ subsisting, than what has been ordered by the Board. As the

Govt 6.5.97

Dept. Sec. 7/5/97

I suppose it was Mr. D. Watson who took it upon himself to issue this order, but the Collr gives no name. I think we should call for a copy of the communication referred to, if it is as stated, from the Supdg Engineer of Salem.

JG
5/5/97

A.S.K
6.5.97

In regard to this matter see G.O. No 1405 (Flapped E) dated 13.3.97 and also G.O. 206 dated 30.3.97 (Flapped F)

2.

11/5/97.

C 4/5/97

Hon: Mr. Grose has remarked in another connexion it is the lot of ordinary coolies to work in the sun and they are used to it

11/4-15/17.

RS
1-5-97

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

N.B.—
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