

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 284

DATED 1st May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Yasko

Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in considering that the amount of work to be expected from a nursing mother and a pregnant woman should not be calculated at more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ units.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
4567/97							

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 323

The Hon. Mr. Cross C. J. &
H.E. the Governor.

Handwritten note: *Handwritten note: 1/5/97*

1/4-4-97

From

The Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land Revenue
and agriculture. Madras.

Order (Purs) No. 284 of 1st May 1897

The Government agrees

No. 265 Pres.

With the Board of Revenue in the
views expressed in paras 3 & 4
of the report read above.

Dated 1st April 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reduction of task -

Submitting to Government, with
Board's remarks, correspondence
regarding - of nursing mothers
in relief works.

The Board of Rev. Sett. 3/5/97
By Mr. P. W. Dept.

60/3

Entered 18/5/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	937		16-2-97
	1405		13-3-97
	1702		30-3-97

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. 265.

APRIL.

Reduction of task.—Submitting to Government, with Board's remarks, correspondence regarding — of nursing mothers on relief works.

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

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496:—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 937, Revenue, dated 16th February 1897, on endorsement of the Public Works Department, No. 854, dated 10th February 1897, transferring the following letter from W. B. DEWINTON, Esq., Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 8th February 1897, No. 3766-W:—

I have the honour to report that, from careful inspection of famine-relief workers at work, I have come to the conclusion that it is quite impossible for a nursing mother to do the same task as an ordinary woman and that to make her do so severely handicaps the remainder of the gang.

2. I have, therefore, given instructions to my Division Officers that nursing mothers should be classed as one-and-half units instead of two until further orders and request that this action may be approved.

Order—thereon Mis. No. 937, Revenue, dated 16th February 1897.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for very early remarks. It should be ascertained whether the difficulty is experienced anywhere else and whether it is necessary to make the concession.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

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

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496.

Communicated to the Collectors of the affected districts for very early report on the points indicated by Government.

2. The Board would suggest that on all points not of a professional nature that are connected with the administration of relief works, Superintending Engineers should be requested to address it direct.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To Collectors of Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 9th March 1897, Mis. No. 1737:—

Read—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 28th February 1897, Ref. on C. No. 782-Rev.:—

With reference to B.P., dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496, I have the honour to state that I am in full accord with Mr. DeWinton as to the necessity of reducing the tasks of nursing women and the extent of reduction proposed by him seems reasonable.

2. While inspecting our relief work at Royalapuram, my attention was drawn to two nursing mothers who were suckling their infants and breaking stones at the same time. This I consider is not right. The women were acting in this way, of course, to make up the day's task for the gang.

Resolution—dated 9th March 1897, Mis. No. 1737.

Recorded, pending receipt of further replies.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 9th March 1897, Mis. No. 1765:—

Read—the following letter from H. A. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 3rd March 1897, Dis. No. 1212:—

With reference to B.P., dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496 (R. S.), I have the honour to state that Mr. DeWinton has withdrawn his letter to the Chief Engineer upon a representation made by me, a copy of which is enclosed for the Board's information. So far as this district is concerned, I find that the tasks adopted here are sufficiently light to meet cases of short outturn on the part of nursing mothers, and I cannot, with my present experience, recommend any reduction in the classification of nursing mothers.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, dated 11th February 1897, Ref. on G. and B. No. 229.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your letter to the Chief Engineer forwarded with your endorsement No. 3767, dated 8th February 1897.

2. I have learnt therefrom with surprise that you have issued instructions to your Division officers, radically altering the scale of the task of nursing mothers, for under section 107 of the Famine Code, the prescribed tasks can be modified only with the sanction of the Collector. But not even the Collector has the power to make the radical change ordered by you. I must ask you to be good enough to cancel your order at once so far as this district is concerned.

3. As regards the merits of the question I would observe that it is obvious that a nursing mother cannot do the same amount of work as a woman of like strength and capacity who is not hampered by a child at the breast, but this fact was, no doubt, duly considered by the able officers who drew up the Famine Code and by the Governments of Madras and India which sanctioned it. The tasks fixed represent an average and an average which is based upon actual experience. Great reductions have already been made in this district and I shall want very convincing evidence before sanctioning any further reductions.

READ—also the following letter from H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Chatrapur, 4th March 1897, R. C. No. 476-F:—

Adverting to B.P. (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), Mis. No. 1496, dated 25th February 1897, I have the honour to state that on the test work at Kaliapalli only two nursing mothers have come for work up to date. It seems, however, impossible for them to be expected to perform the same task as an ordinary woman, and I am in favour of reckoning them as equivalent to one and a half units only.

Resolution—dated 9th March 1897, Mis. No. 1765.

Recorded, pending receipt of further replies to the reference quoted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 11th March 1897, Mis. No. 1825:—

Read—the following letter from E. A. ELWIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Camp, Mahadeva-puram, 18th March 1897, Tour Dis. No. 370:—

In reply to B.P., dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496, I have the honour to state that it is, in my opinion, necessary to make the concession proposed by the Superintending Engineer in the case of nursing mothers. On almost every relief-work that I have inspected there are complaints that these women habitually fail to turn out the task of an ordinary grown-up female and thereby cause the other members of the gangs to which they are attached to suffer for no fault of their own. A certain amount of the time that they are supposed to devote to work is necessarily spent in attending to the children that they are nursing, especially when those children are sickly, and besides this the knowledge that their wage will not be reduced below a fixed minimum tends to render them indifferent workers. The question was discussed in my Proceedings, Dis. No. 354-Eng., dated 30th January 1897, a copy of which was submitted to the Board.

Resolution—dated 11th March 1897, Mis. No. 1825.

Recorded, pending receipt of further replies.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 24th March 1897, Mis. No. 2194:—

Read—the following G.O., Mis. No. 1405, Revenue, dated 13th March 1897:—

Read—endorsement of the Public Works Department, No. 1198-C, dated 1st March 1897, transferring to the Revenue Department, in continuation of endorsement No. 854-C, dated 10th February 1897, the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, No. 4091-W., dated 22nd February 1897:—

I have the honour to request you will be good enough to cancel my No. 3766-W., dated the 8th instant, regarding the task for a nursing mother.

Order—thereon Mis. No. 1405, Revenue, dated 13th March 1897.

Recorded with the remark that the Superintending Engineer had no authority to depart from the provisions of the code except after communication with the Collector.
2. The report called for from the Board in G.O., No. 937, dated the 16th February 1897, is not now necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.).

Resolution—dated 24th March 1897, Mis. No. 2194.

Recorded.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

READ—also 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 20th March 1897, Dis. No. 1476:—

In reply to B.P. (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496, I have the honour to state that all my Divisional Officers and Tahsildars, in whose jurisdiction the famine works are in progress, report that nursing mothers with all their zeal and activity cannot perform the tasks as an ordinary woman and recommend that it is necessary that their task should be reduced to one and a half units instead of two. I strongly recommend the concession, but would suggest it may be limited to those whose children are of or below the age of one year or are too young to walk about without help.

2. In this connection I beg to add that I have in my experience observed that women in advanced pregnancy are also in the position of nursing mothers as regards the fulfilment of the task. I therefore request that the concession that may be accorded to nursing mothers may equally be extended to women of or above six months' pregnancy, as it is said that women of advanced pregnancy are generally averse to go to kitchens and as it is also considered advisable that some task should be exacted from those who are able to do it wherever it is found possible.

RESOLUTION—dated 1st April 1897, No. 265.

In G.O., Mis. No. 937, dated 16th February 1897, the Government forwarded to the Board for remarks a letter from the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, stating that, as nursing mothers cannot do the same task as other women, and as the task prescribed on relief works is the same for all women, the gangs comprising nursing mothers are severely handicapped, and that he has therefore issued instructions for treating nursing mothers, for the purpose of determining tasks, as 1½ child units instead of 2. The Government desired to know whether the difficulty referred to by the Superintending Engineer was experienced anywhere else and whether it was necessary to make any concession of the nature referred to. The Collectors of the affected districts were accordingly called upon in the first Proceedings read above to report on these points. The Superintending Engineer has since cancelled his letter and the

Government stated (in G.O., Mis. No. 1405, dated 13th March 1897), that the report called for from the Board was no longer necessary. In the meanwhile, however, the Board received replies from the Collectors to the reference made, and these tend to show that the concession proposed by the Superintending Engineer is really necessary. The Board considers that these replies, which are read at the head of these Proceedings, call for remarks.

2. The Collectors of Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Ganjam are of opinion that nursing mothers should be treated as only $1\frac{1}{2}$ child units. The Collector of Anantapur would restrict the concession to those "whose children are of or below the age of one year or are too young to walk about without help." He would, on the other hand, put "women of or above six months' pregnancy" also in the same category with nursing mothers. The Collector of Kurnool adds that the fact that the nursing mothers are entitled to a minimum wage, tends to make them indifferent workers, thus reducing the outturn of the gangs to which they belong, and that he has therefore directed that they should be drafted into weakly gangs and set light tasks. The Collector of Bellary, on the other hand, thinks that the tasks adopted in his district are sufficiently light to meet cases of short work by nursing mothers, and, with his present experience, is not prepared to recommend any special concession on their behalf.

3. The Board believes that, in fixing standard tasks, the case of nursing mothers was not considered. There can be no doubt that a woman who has a child at breast, and some have twins suckling, must be severely hampered, and cannot turn out the same amount of work as a woman who is not encumbered in the same way, and the Board agrees with the majority of the Collectors consulted that the amount of work to be expected from a nursing mother should not be calculated at more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ units.

4. The Board also considers that it will be advisable to authorise relief officers to reduce to $1\frac{1}{2}$ units the work to be expected of women who, by reason of pregnancy, cannot be expected to complete the full woman's task. Properly speaking, the pregnant woman should not work at all, being entitled to gratuitous relief under section 62, but, as a fact, they insist on working and refuse to enter a kitchen.

5. The question, however, is one which, without any order of Government, can, and should, be disposed of by District Officers in revising tasks.

They have a freehand in adjusting tasks to the capacity of the gangs, and this cannot be done by any rule of thumb. It is possible that the existing district task table in Bellary may already have been calculated on the supposition that there will be a certain number of nursing mothers in each gang, and possibly no reduction may be required then. On the other hand, it may often happen that the task of a gang has to be reduced, and this should not be done by guess work. The objection made originally by the Collector of Bellary was, the Board thinks, based on a misapprehension of the purpose in view when the Superintending Engineer issued his order. Of course, to start with, the units of the Code task table form a useful standpoint; though, in some respects, as, when it puts a boy of 12 as physically equal to an adult man, it is unduly severe; but Mr. DeWinton's proposal was not levelled at the original starting task table, but was intended to supply a rule, not a rule of thumb, for re-adjustment of tasks where it might be found that the gang could not work up to the task table. In the latter case, an examination of the individuals of the gang might show some weakly men, who might be only equal to two units, or women who might be only equal to one. Instead, then, of re-adjusting the tasks by guess work, Mr. DeWinton's idea was to work out a sum in the rule of three, thus: As the number of units, according to the Code task table, was to the task in the Code or the district table of tasks, so would the number of units after re-adjustment be to the task to be set. It is a simple way out of a difficulty. When a task has to be re-adjusted, it is not important, so long as the work is done carefully; exactly how the result is arrived at, but the plan proposed by Mr. DeWinton is scientific in principles and the Board considers that District Officers may be left to arrive at results in this way if they prefer it. There is no interference, as Mr. Stuart seemed to apprehend, with the original number of units in the Code task table, the re-calculation of units being

only one of many ways, rule of thumb included, by which a re-adjustment of tasks is arrived at. If, therefore, the proposal contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 *supra* should be approved, this would not necessarily be final, as, in case of emaciated gangs, a further reduction, for the purpose of calculating the new tasks, in the number of units in the gang would be allowable in working out results for section 107 of the Famine Code.

(True Copies and Extract).

L. S. Wankar
For Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collectors of affected districts.
Copy to other Collectors.
" to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

The defence is ingenious, but Mr. DeWinton probably never dreamt of the reasons as his order reducing the task of nursing mothers was issued long before the

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 284, 1st May 1897.

MAY.

Tasks.

Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in considering that the amount of work to be expected from a nursing mother and a pregnant woman should not be calculated at more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ units.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 1st April 1897, No. 265:—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496:—

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I have the honour to report that, from careful inspection of famine-relief workers at work, I have come to the conclusion that it is quite impossible for a nursing mother to do the same task as an ordinary woman and that to make her do so severely handicaps the remainder of the gang.

2. I have, therefore, given instructions to my Division Officers that nursing mothers should be classed as one-and-half units instead of two until further orders and request that this action may be approved.

Order—thereon Mis. No. 937, Revenue, dated 16th February 1897.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for very early remarks. It should be ascertained whether the difficulty is experienced anywhere else and whether it is necessary to make the concession.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

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

Resolution—dated 25th February 1897, Mis. No. 1496:

Communicated to the Collectors of the affected districts for very early report on the points indicated by Government.

2. The Board would suggest that on all points not of a professional nature that are connected with the administration of relief works, Superintending Engineers should be requested to address it direct.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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Secretary.

To Collectors of Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah,
„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Ganjam.

„ „ Sanitary Commissioner.

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2. While inspecting our relief work at Royalapuram, my attention was drawn to two nursing mothers who were suckling their infants and breaking stones at the same time. This I consider is not right. The women were acting in this way, of course, to make up the day's task for the gang.

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ENCLOSURE.

From the Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, dated 11th February 1897, Ref. on G. and B. No. 229.

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3. As regards the merits of the question I would observe that it is obvious that a nursing mother cannot do the same amount of work as a woman of like strength and capacity who is not hampered by a child at the breast, but this fact was, no doubt duly considered by the able officers who drew up the Famine Code and by the Governments of Madras and India which sanctioned it. The tasks fixed represent an average and an average which is based upon actual experience. Great reductions have already been made in this district and I shall want very convincing evidence before sanctioning any further reductions.

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First

Return

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READ

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3. The Board believes that, in fixing standard tasks, the case of nursing mothers was not considered. There can be no doubt that a woman who has a child at breast, and some have twins suckling, must be severely hampered, and cannot turn out the same amount of work as a woman who is not encumbered in the same way, and the Board agrees with the majority of the Collectors consulted that the amount of work to be expected from a nursing mother should not be calculated at more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ units.

4. The Board also considers that it will be advisable to authorise relief officers to reduce to $1\frac{1}{2}$ units the work to be expected of women who, by reason of pregnancy, cannot be expected to complete the full woman's task. Properly speaking, the pregnant woman should not work at all, being entitled to gratuitous relief under section 62, but, as a fact, they insist on working and refuse to enter a kitchen.

5. The question, however, is one which, without any order of Government, can, and should, be disposed of by District Officers in revising tasks.

They have a freehand in adjusting tasks to the capacity of the gangs, and this cannot be done by any rule of thumb. It is possible that the existing district task table in Bellary may already have been calculated on the supposition that there will be a certain number of nursing mothers in each gang, and possibly no reduction may be required then. On the other hand, it may often happen that the task of a gang has to be reduced, and this should not be done by guess work. The objection made originally by the Collector of Bellary was, the Board thinks, based on a misapprehension of the purpose in view when the Superintending Engineer issued his order. Of course, to start with, the units of the Code task table form a useful standpoint; though, in some respects, as, when it puts a boy of 12 as physically equal to an adult man, it is unduly severe; but Mr. DeWinton's proposal was not levelled at the original starting task table, but was intended to supply a rule, not a rule of thumb, for re-adjustment of tasks where it might be found that the gang could not work up to the task table. In the latter case, an examination of the individuals of the gang might show some weakly men, who might be only equal to two units, or women who might be only equal to one. Instead, then, of re-adjusting the tasks by guess work, Mr. DeWinton's idea was to work out a sum in the rule of three, thus: As the number of units, according to the Code task table, was to the task in the Code or the district table of tasks, so would the number of units after re-adjustment be to the task to be set. It is a simple way out of a difficulty. When a task has to be re-adjusted, it is not important, so long as the work is done carefully, exactly how the result is arrived at, but the plan proposed by Mr. DeWinton is scientific in principles and the Board considers that District Officers may be left to arrive at results in this way if they prefer it. There is no interference, as Mr. Stuart seemed to apprehend, with the original number of units in the Code task table, the re-calculation of units being

only one of many ways, rule of thumb included, by which a re-adjustment of tasks is arrived at. If, therefore, the proposal contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 *supra* should be approved, this would not necessarily be final, as, in case of emaciated gangs, a further reduction, for the purpose of calculating the new tasks, in the number of units in the gang would be allowable in working out results for section 107 of the Famine Code.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collectors of affected districts.

Copy to other Collectors.

„ to the Sanitary Commissioner.

ORDER—No. 284, Revenue, dated 1st May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Government agrees with the Board of Revenue in the views expressed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Proceedings read above.

(True Extract.)

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

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

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