

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3 / 4

DATED 11 th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Supervision of Famine-relief Works.

Passing orders on a note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, bringing to notice the great difficulty experienced in providing establishment for —

BACK PAPERS.

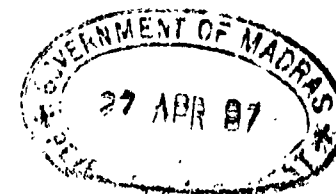
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ans	5620/97						

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3421



From Mr. G. S. S.

From

The Public Works Department

No. 198

Dated 23rd April 1897

Received 27-4-97

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies -

Order

For information and action as he has not seen the papers.

27-4-97

I agree that Public Works must be concentrated & Village works started. The Commr. should be asked to what extent this can be done.

Jg
28/4/97

Drift & canal
the river - 1/27-4-97

SUBJECT.

Establishment for the Supervision of Famine Relief Works

Transferring note for orders in the P.W.D. regarding the paucity of hands for the
with notes in original by H.E.
The Governor & The Honble Board

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Read the following:—

FOR ORDERS.

As the number of coolies on relief works in the III Circle is increasing, and as relief works are being started elsewhere, it becomes necessary to consider seriously how the great strain that will be thrown on the establishment of this Department, should matters get much worse, is to be met. I suppose it may be assumed that it will be impossible to get assistance from other Provinces; if so, in the event of a failure of the next S.W. monsoon, it will be a matter of extreme difficulty for this Department to supply the supervision necessary, and I think it advisable that the matter should be considered now and that a scheme should be worked out which will enable us to meet all contingencies.

When I wrote my note dated 6th January 1897, bringing to notice the difficulty

Preparations must be made in advance to meet the possibility of a failure of the S.W. monsoon. The Res. Secy. has already written on Collection the necessity of getting their programmes of famine relief works in order.

In this Note, the C.E. writes that he will not be able to provide sufficient men for supervision. I propose to indent on other Departments. The Police will have their hands full; but the Collectorate staff, the Salt, Forest, Survey and Settlement Departments, etc., probably supply a fair number

difficulty that would be experienced in providing establishment, and asking for sanction to the employment of 23 temporary upper subordinates, there were only 25 upper subordinates employed and under orders for famine duty; the number has now increased to 64.

3 The latest return submitted by the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, shows that he has 7 Assistant Engineers and 37 upper subordinates employed on 51 relief works, giving employment to 57,812 coolies.

I have no detailed figures for Ganjam and Vizagapatam, but there are 10 upper subordinates employed on, and 7 more under orders for, famine duty in these two districts.

4 The figures given by the Superintending Engineer III Circle are somewhat alarming; at the beginning of January the number of relief works was only 8 employing 13,839 coolies, and only 12 upper subordinates were actually employed (11 being under orders), while now, or, not 3 months later there are 51 relief works employing 57,812 persons and requiring 37 upper subordinates. If the distress increases at this rate, it is probable that at least 20 more upper subordinates will be required for the III Circle in

FOR ORDERS.

of men. To think the Res. Sec. should be directed to address the Heads of these Departments, asking them to give a rough statement of the men whom they would be able to supply, for famine duty, if needed, - claiming as accurately as possible for according to the work that they could do.

Col. Campbell says: The stoppage of these works (in Ad and Tirupati water supply and Light houses). This would give little help. I would therefore keep them going for the present.

Col. Campbell's plan to employ a batch of College students, say 20, before their training is completed, - might be mentioned if extreme pressure arises.

21/4/97

21/4/97

I agree - The Salt Dept. certainly could supply some men capable of supervising works. I doubt if the other Dept. mentioned by H.L. can help much in that particular.

Way.

I have not my book yet. But believe that the calculation is to 1 upper subordinate can look after 4000 relief workers, given the proper assistance. If so, the number of upper subordinates we will do for a long time to come, provided the works are concentrated - as is the case in the present emergency. If that is ordered, it will be necessary, as I have already mentioned, to make arrangements for bettering the population, for establishing bazaris & hospitals & so on - in fact for working the famine code in its integrity, as it has not been worked. I think also that in that case, it will be essential that some village works shall be started to afford employment to the people near the houses. If this is done we shall have breakdown, as has been the case in the past famine.

~~It would be a great assistance if the Res. Sec. could have maps prepared of the affected districts with the localities in which Relief works are in progress indicated. If the several works were numbered, an accompanying list (to be created from work to work) of persons could give the numbers of the persons employed on each work. The return of the work, and we should then be able to see the position at a glance.~~

+ 23 for 6 months & 2 against the ordinary temporary establishment.

the next 3 months, or before the S.W. monsoon can be expected.

5 In the I Circle (Ganjam and Vizagapatam) the distress is apparently increasing and all relief works will shortly be transferred to this Department, there are already 10 upper subordinates on famine duty in the Circle, and it is more than probable that at least 30 more will be required.

6 Thus it seems very likely that before the next S.W. monsoon nearly 100 upper subordinates will have to be deputed to famine works. I need hardly point out that this will seriously interfere with the ordinary work of the Department. Of course, famine must take precedence of all other kinds of work and it therefore becomes necessary to consider whether it will not be advisable to postpone the following works:-

- Cocanada water supply
- Tirupati water supply
- Lighthouse work.

These would set free one Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer and 3 upper subordinates, which of course would only be a drop in the ocean, but still would be of some help. I advertised for men to fill posts of temporary upper subordinates, and have appointed 25 men, and there are only

10. remaining who are not suitable,
but may be ^{employed} ~~appointed~~ on emergency, and
the question is where more are to
be got? I think that even if 100 sub-
ordinates are required the ordinary
work of the Department can be carried
on in a way, without appointing more
men and if the works I have mentioned
are stopped: but if the S.W. monsoon
fails, I anticipate that at the present
rate of the demand for supervision at
least 200 men will be wanted and it
will be simply impossible to get them,
the only way of getting ^{such} so few as 20
men that I can think of is to let a
batch of college students out before
their ^{time} ~~term~~ is up.

7 If it is possible to start a few
large relief works instead of a num-
ber of scattered small ones, of course
the superintendence required would be
much less, and I do not see why this
should not be done. I believe this is
the course adopted in the N.W. Pro-
vinces, and I think that in view of
a failure of the next monsoon, some
estimates for large works in each
district should be prepared at once.
I wrote to the Superintending Engineer
III Circle asking why more Sub-Over-
seers and fewer Overseers could not
be employed, and he answered that the
former are useless, unless properly
supervised. My object in writing this

note

note is to point out that there may
be so great a demand for supervision
before long, that I may not be able
to provide the men, and as I am res-
ponsible that the men are forthcoming
when required, I think it well to re-
present the matter as it stands at
present.

(Initd) D. M. C.
7/4/97

g No 19 of 23rd April 1897

Transferred to the Revenue De-
partment for the necessary action.

When I wrote my last note only
3 weeks ago there were altogether 61
Assistant Engineers and Upper Sub-
ordinates employed on famine relief
works. Now there are 86, and the Su-
perintending Engineer, III Circle, re-
ports that 8 more will be wanted
shortly, making a total of 94.

I am fully convinced that the
present system of scattered relief
works must fail if the famine increas-
es, and that if possible works under
the D.P.W. should be concentrated, and
separate village relief works start-
ed. With reference to the Honourable
Mr. Bliss' remarks, I would observe
that I receive from the Superintend-
ing Engineers fortnightly distribu-
tion returns with maps showing the
position of relief works, each work
being numbered, and the number of

persons

Read G. No. 3421 of 1897.
ORDER. No. 3214 of 11 May 1897.

In the Note read above the Chief Engineer brings to the notice of Govt. the great difficulty experienced in providing establishment for the supervision of famine relief works. There were altogether 61 Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates employed on famine duty when the Note was written; the number has since increased to 86 and it appears that 8 more will shortly be required in the III Circle alone, to say nothing of Ganjam and Vizagapatam where distress is deepening and where relief works, which till recently ^{had} failed to attract labourers, are now resorted to by the people in considerable numbers. It seems therefore probable that before the next S.W. Monsoon the number employed on famine duty will considerably exceed the estimate given in para 6 ^{of the note} and if there should be any serious delay or failure in the next monsoon rains and it become necessary to open relief work in other districts, the Department would be unable to meet the demand for increased supervision.

2. It is necessary to take timely steps to meet this possible increase in the demand for supervision. It might be possible for the Chief Engineer to temporarily extend and rearrange the division and ranges in the non-affected districts

The Hon. Mr. C. R. C. M.
The Hon. Mr. P. S. C. M.
St. R. the Governor

6/5/97
But see below

I suggest 2 verbal amendments below

7/5/97
Arrangements might be made to circulate copies of the maps submitted by the Sappers and Engineers up to date to circulate them.

Issue amended.
11/7/97

With Mr. S. J. first to all the addresses. It is not necessary to send Mr. S. copies of the Chief Engineer's note to any address.
RS
11-5-97
Show proof to me
RS

persons employed, and the supervision being given in a statement accompanying: and the Superintending Engineers have received instructions to economise supervision as far as is consistent with the proper execution of the works.

It will be perhaps possible to employ men from other Departments, and I would also suggest that, should matters become worse, some Sappers and Miners be employed.

J. H. R. P. S. Col. R. E.,
Secretary.

so as to relieve a larger number of officers for famine duty; this course but should be adopted wherever practicable. The Salt Department will doubtless be able to supply a number of men capable of supervising works; the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts and on the Forest and Survey Departments might also supply a fair number for the purpose. The Heads of ^{these} Departments are requested to submit to Govt as early as possible statements showing the names of the officers they could spare for famine duty. As additional officers will also be required for the posts of Taluk Relief Officers, Circle Inspectors, Poorhouse Superintendents, Kitchen Superintendents, etc, ^{the} statements should classify the men as accurately as possible according to the nature of the work they could do.

3. The Govt is also of opinion that it would be possible to some extent to replace small scattered relief works by a few large ones and thus economise supervision by massing relief-workers at selected centres.

The Board of Revenue is requested to report the extent to which this can be done and to direct Collectors to have estimates for a sufficient number of works prepared at once in consultation with Superintending Engineers. It should

*Remember
and the languages with which he
is acquainted.*

can

It would suggest the addition here of the following: "Such works might be placed under the Revenue Officer, and it is asked they would release the strain on the D.P.W."

This is not from a part of the order. Govt will have to address the C. G. commanding before men can be got.

*BD 29
A.44
9.5.97*

be borne in mind that when works are concentrated it will be necessary to make arrangements for hutting the labourers ~~at~~ for establishing bazaars and hospitals, etc. (vide S. 113) It will also be necessary to open a sufficient number of village works to afford employment near their homes to people living at a distance from the works centres. These details should also receive early attention.

The three works referred to in para 6 of the Chief Engineer's Note may be kept going for the present as their stoppage is not likely to afford much help. The proposal made in this para to employ a number of College students before their training is completed may be renewed if extreme pressure should arise.

Arrangements should also be made to obtain if possible the services of some labourers and masons.

15/5/97
12/5/97
11/5/97

Government (1897) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 314, 11th May 1897.

MAY.

Supervision of Famine-relief Works.

Passing orders on a note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, bringing to notice the great difficulty experienced in providing establishment for —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Note by the Chief Engineer, dated 7th April 1897.

As the number of coolies on relief works in the III Circle is increasing and as relief works are being started elsewhere, it becomes necessary to consider seriously how the great strain that will be thrown on the establishment of this department, should matters get much worse, is to be met. I suppose it may be assumed that it will be impossible to get assistance from other provinces; if so, in the event of a failure of the next south-west monsoon, it will be a matter of extreme difficulty for this department to supply the supervision necessary, and I think it advisable that the matter should be considered now, and that a scheme should be worked out which will enable us to meet all contingencies.

2. When I wrote my note, dated 6th January 1897, bringing to notice the difficulty that would be experienced in providing establishment and asking for sanction to the employment of 23 upper subordinates, there were only 23 upper subordinates employed and under orders for famine duty; the number has now increased to 64.

3. The latest return submitted by the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, shows that he has 7 Assistant Engineers and 37 upper subordinates employed on 51 relief works, giving employment to 57,812 coolies.

I have no detailed figures for Ganjam and Vizagapatam, but there are 10 upper subordinates employed on, and 7 more under orders for, famine duty in these two districts.

4. The figures given by the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, are somewhat alarming; at the beginning of January the number of relief works, was only 8, employing 13,839 coolies, and only 12 upper subordinates were actually employed (11 being under orders), while now, or, not three months later, there are 51 relief works, employing 57,812 persons and requiring 37 upper subordinates. If the distress increases at this rate, it is probable that at least 20 more upper subordinates will be required for the III Circle in the next three months, or before the south-west monsoon can be expected.

5. In the I Circle (Ganjam and Vizagapatam) the distress is apparently increasing and all relief works will shortly be transferred to this department; there are already 10 upper subordinates on famine duty in the Circle, and it is more than probable that at least 30 more will be required.

6. Thus it seems very likely that before the next south west monsoon, nearly 100 upper subordinates will have to be deputed to famine works. I need hardly point out that this will seriously interfere with the ordinary work of the department. Of course, famine must take precedence of all other kinds of work and it therefore becomes necessary to consider whether it will not be advisable to postpone the following works :—

Cocanada water-supply.

Tirupati do.

Lighthouse work.

These would set free one Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer and three upper subordinates, which, of course, would only be a drop in the ocean, but still would be of some help.

I advertised for men to fill posts of temporary upper subordinates, and have appointed 25 men, and there are only 10 remaining who are not suitable, but may be

employed on emergency, and the question is where more are to be got? I think that even if 100 subordinates are required the ordinary work of the department can be carried on in a way without appointing more men and if the works I have mentioned are stopped; but if the south west monsoon fails I anticipate that at the present rate of the demand for supervision at least 200 men will be wanted, and it will be simply impossible to get them, the only way of getting even so few as 20 men that I can think of is to let a batch of college students out before their time is up.

7. If it is possible to start a few large relief works instead of a number of scattered small ones, of course the superintendence required would be much less, and I do not see why this should not be done. I believe this is the course adopted in the North-West Provinces, and I think that in view of a failure of the next monsoon, some estimates for large works in each district should be prepared at once. I wrote to the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, asking why more sub-overseers and fewer overseers could not be employed, and he answered that the former are useless unless properly supervised. My object in writing this note is to point out that there may be so great a demand for supervision before long, that I may not be able to provide the men, and as I am responsible that the men are forthcoming when required, I think it well to represent the matter as it stands at present.

(Signed)

D. McNEIL CAMPBELL,
Colonel, R.E.,

7th April 1897.

ORDER—No. 314, Revenue, dated 11th May 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In the note read above the Chief Engineer brings to the notice of Government the great difficulty experienced in ment the great difficulty experienced in providing establishment for the supervision of famine relief works. There were altogether 61 Assistant Engineers and upper subordinates employed on famine duty when the note was written; the number has since increased to 86 and it appears that 8 more will shortly be required in the III Circle alone, to say nothing of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, where distress is deepening and where relief works, which, till recently had failed to attract labourers, are now resorted to by the people in considerable numbers. It seems therefore probable that before the next south-west monsoon the number employed on famine duty will considerably exceed the estimate given in paragraph 6 of the note, and if there should be any serious delay or failure in the next monsoon rains and it becomes necessary to open relief works in other districts, the department would be unable to meet the demand for increased supervision.

2. It is necessary to take timely steps to meet this possible increase in the demand for supervision. It might be possible for the Chief Engineer to temporarily extend and re-arrange the divisions and ranges in the non-affected districts so as to relieve a larger number of officers for famine duty; this course should be adopted wherever practicable. The Salt Department will doubtless be able to supply a number of men capable of supervising works; the Collectorate staff in the non-affected districts and the Forest and Survey Departments might also supply a fair number. The Heads of these departments are requested to submit to Government as early as possible statements showing the names of the officers they could spare for famine duty and the vernacular languages with which each is acquainted. As additional officers will also be required for the posts of Taluk Relief officers, Circle Inspectors, Poorhouse Superintendents, Kitchen Superintendents, &c., the statements should classify the men as accurately as possible according to the nature of the work they can do.

3. The Government is also of opinion that it would be possible to some extent to replace small scattered relief works by a few large ones and thus economise supervision by massing relief workers at selected centres. The Board of Revenue is requested to report the extent to which this can be done, and to direct Collectors to have estimates for a sufficient number of works prepared at once in consultation with

Superintending Engineers. It should be borne in mind that when works are concentrated, it will be necessary to make arrangements for hutting the labourers, for establishing bazaars and hospitals, &c. (*vide* section 113). It will also be necessary to open a sufficient number of village works to afford employment near their homes to people living at a distance from the works centres. These details should also receive early attention. Such works might be placed under the Revenue officers, and to that extent they would relieve the strain on the Public Works Department.

4. The three works referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chief Engineer's note may be kept going for the present as their stoppage is not likely to afford much help. The proposal made in this paragraph to employ a number of college students before their training is completed may be renewed if extreme pressure should arise.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
„ the „ (Land Revenue).
„ the Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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REVENUE G.O. No.
189

No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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