

11-9-07

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3439

DATED 20th July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. passing orders on the
report of the Com^r of Mysore regarding the
adoption of half-price & half wages for the
calculation of wages.

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.



From The Board of Revenue,
Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture,
Madras

No. 4873 mis

Dated 3rd July 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on the
report of the Collector of
Ganjam regarding the
adoption of $\frac{1}{2}$ rice and
half ragi for the calculation
of wages in Ganjam.

1 The Hon. Secy. Genl. 15/7/97
3 H. D. S. 15/7/97

Order no. 3439 of 20th July 1897
17/7/97

Revised

16/7/97

The General Comd 24/7/97

The Genl. Comd is instructed to
have met to administrative effect.

14/7/97

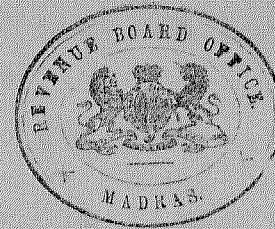
16/7/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	366		20-5-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 3rd July 1897.

No. 4873 Mis.

READ

again Board's Proceedings dated 29th May 1897 No. 3871 Mis, communicating to the collector of Ganjam, Government Order dated 20th May 1897 No. 366 Revenue, and requesting him to make further enquiries and report with reference to para 1 of the Government Order.

Read also the following letter from the collector of Ganjam, dated 22nd June 1897 Dis. $\frac{627}{7}$ of 97:-

With reference to Board's

Proceedings No. 3871 miscellaneous dated 29th

29th May 1897 directing me to make a further enquiry as to what should be considered the staple food of the district, I have the honor to state that I have discussed the matter with several Taluk officers and others well qualified to give an opinion ~~and~~ and the result coincides with ~~my~~ previous inquiries.

2. The conditions of this District are complicated by the fact that there is a mixed Wriya and Telugu population. In the subdivision Telugu preponderates while elsewhere the Wriyas are in the ascendant, though in the senior Assistant Collector's Division the professional cooly classes consist for the most part of Telugu Reddikas, the rest of the population

population being almost entirely Wriya.

3. Each of these classes in ordinary times take 3 meals a day. The first consists in each case of weak rice congee, the midday meal in each case of ragi soaked in rice congee water.

In the evening the Wriyas ~~usually~~ take a rice meal, while the Telugus when they can afford it take rice, but ^{more} generally a mixed diet of $\frac{1}{2}$ rice and $\frac{1}{2}$ ragi. It may be taken then that for Wriyas the average proportion is $\frac{3}{5}$ rice and $\frac{2}{5}$ ragi, while for Telugus the proportion is reversed and consists of $\frac{2}{5}$ rice and $\frac{3}{5}$ ragi.

4. It is however impossible to differentiate the wage for two

two different classes on the same work. The natural result is that the Ichegu labourers come to work before the Uriyas come in in any quantity. This however, is no argument for robbing the Uriyas of the wherewithal to buy their natural food.

5. I would here notice a very special point, namely the high rate, which is, under the principles of the Famine Code, paid to women as compared to men with reference to the local rates of wages in the district.

The Famine Code provides for the corresponding value at current prices of a fixed amount of grain sufficient to

to keep a working man and woman respectively in proper bodily health - but the coolies of these parts have not been educated up to the point. The cost is merely for the money amount of the wage and not to its corresponding grain value. As a result it was found that women flocked to the work at the earlier stages even before distress was acute, because they were drawing more than their normal wages, while men sat down and rested themselves at home, living on the produce of the industry of their wives and children. The result was the execution of Test works at ruinous expense much in excess of ordinary contract rates.

rates as reported by me for the Kaliapatti quarry. I found that the gang piece work system, which I introduced in the earlier stages under which no one was refused work, and gangs were formed in the ordinary course, payment being made by actual measurement, proved much more economical and at the same time was better liked by the workers themselves, who came, worked hard — bringing their food with them, and wasted no time in the middle of the day beyond what was necessary for their actual meals.

6. The ordinary wage of a man in this district varies from 2 to 3 annas, of a woman from

1 anna and 3 pias to 1 anna and 6 pias and of child from 6 pias to 1 anna. According to the Famine Code when a man earns two annas a woman obtains 1 anna and 10 pias, while when a woman earns 1 anna and 3 pias, the man's wage is 1 anna and 4 pias. This is very galling to the susceptibilities of the men.

7. As I have already pointed out, it is impossible to charge different rates for different races on the same work. This would cause much friction, heartburning and probably blows. At the same time, I am rather in favour, pace the Famine Code, of fixing the maximum woman's wage at one anna and 6 pias and of a child at 1 anna.

This

This would have the effect of soothing the wounded dignity of the men and they would come to work as soon as the state of prices indicated any real necessity, instead of reposing in slothful ease and living upon the earnings of the rest of the family. By this arrangement I do not think that the family would lose anything as a whole while the outturn of work would certainly be much greater in proportion to the expenditure incurred.

8. Subject to this modification which I put forward with diffidence but at the same time with a feeling that the standard of comfort of a working family will be in no way —

lowered

lowered as a whole, so far as this district is concerned, I see no reason to modify my opinion that the wages on relief works should be fixed on a basis of half rice and half ragi.

9. In this connection, I may note that while during the current year the ragi crop in the district was by no means poor, the failure being in the rice crops, especially in the rained land:— yet from the moment that an artificial standard was set up by the grant of grain doles fixed on a standard of $\frac{4}{5}$ ragi and $\frac{1}{5}$ rice the price of the former grain has risen with startling rapidity and in some cases is (allowing for pounding and clearing) actually dearer than

rice

rice. It is now being imported from Bangalore, Coconada and elsewhere. I attribute this rise purely to a fictitious demand, and had money doles instead of grain doles been distributed, the price of rice would have been higher and that of kaji lower than it is at present.

Resolution

The Collector was requested to report upon the habits of the people now, and not in ordinary times. He will now be requested to report the nature of the food now taken by the people.

2. The Famine Code provides a ration sufficient for subsistence and the wage which will purchase that

The question of reducing the woman's wage is to be brought up when the next session of the Legislative Council is discussed. The male members on the 1st of May, 1900, have been asked to consider the subject.

that reason. That wage, with prices when they are, must necessarily be higher than the normal wage, which is unusually low in Ganjam, etc., hitherto that District has been continually enjoying the benefit of low prices, while other districts suffered. The ^{railway} ~~trunk~~ has now brought Ganjam into track with the rest of the Presidency and a permanent rise of prices, and of wages, may be expected.

The susceptibilities of the males are a purely sentimental freivance and if the woman's wage only earns the woman's food it is not clear how the man benefits by it, unless he stays at home and eats it. If the woman's wage were reduced, her husband would still stay

at

at home and eat it and
 the last stage of that woman
 would be worse than the first.
 The collector should not have
 mixed up two totally different
 questions in the same letter. —
 Orders have been received
 from Government regarding
 a sort of piecework arrangement
 to be known as "intermediate
 works", regarding which a
 report will be made to Government.
 3. The collector's statement in paras
 of his letter, that "the cost is....
 ... grain value" is completely
 unintelligible.

(True Copy and extract)

Drachman
 4/7
 Famine Secretary.

To The Collector of Ganjam
 Copy to the Secretary to Government
 Revenue Department

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____ } 189
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189

DATED

QUANTITY No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

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A A A A A A A