Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. ~~4327~~ 4470

DATED ~~18 Aug.~~ 26 Aug.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording with remarks
BP issuing further instructions regarding famine
tasks & distance allowances.

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.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cuss C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Sir H. Blair K.C.S.I.
H.E. the Governor.

CURRENT No. 6918

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
15 AUG 97

Order his ~~No 327 d/18 aug 97~~ No 470 d/26 aug 97

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

Recorded Item. 11/1897. Item amended. 11/1897.

No. 555 Press

Dated 7th August 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

2. The Famine Commr is requested to give names and details with reference to the remark in para 5 that in some cases the P.W. officers engaged introduced enhanced tasks and short reference to Collectors

To.

Rl 24-8-97 The Famine Commr

" P.W.D. Ernst 27/8/97

SUBJECT.

Famine tasks

Seeing further instructions regarding — and distance allowances

14/8/97. I brought this Proc. to notice in Council yesterday. From para 9 of the G.O. noted in G.O. No 549 of 9th July 97 it is plain that it was the intention both to raise tasks 25% and to allow the indulgence in

Rec'd 13/8 & 14/8/97 R 15/8/97

distance. It will be seen that the Fam. Comr in par 3 of the current proc. entirely disagrees in this view. Is this to be allowed or will he be told to cancel the present Ords? It will take a long time to undo this & the harm this Ords will cause.

(4487)

The para in the Sec. quotes the Govt accepted was to the effect that the Distance allowance shd be reduced, and that the tasks shd be raised whenever they were less than a full days work – the enhancement not being more than 25%. He did not direct that tasks shd be raised in cases where they were equal to a full days work. See para 5 of the same Bd Pro. the T.C. says "some gangs are already working full tasks", & he has since reported again & again to this effect. In the Pro. under review he says, "it is not true that tasks are generally inadequate". He does not say that tasks are never to be enhanced when the distance allowance is reduced, but that they need not be in many cases. I do not see why he shd be held to cancel this order.

In para 5 he says that Engineers have introduced enhanced tasks without reference to the Coll. He shd be asked for Names & Details.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The idea certainly was that the distance allce was to be cut down and that the task was to remain 25%. Perhaps we should have added the latter proviso "that 10 miles be deemed a full days task" – with this qualification there should be no room for complaint. Before the Coll[rs] lib. on distance, they should, in my opinion, be allotted on the works.

The Fam: Comr is absurd in his para 6. An ordinary load per woman a pitiful load round is 60 lbs – the coolie throughout Kodaikanal & that always will carry a 4gn case often a time, which empty weighs 30 lbs, 16 miles, gradients 12 up & any steep hills, the 1 in 5 & 6 – at 55 lbs, the 27 lbs dist = 5 miles of would be 5 trips = 124 miles 10 miles, to & fro to village, cut down 2 hours day – If the baskets only held 30 lbs, why in the world don't the carry "cavady" carry 2 at a time? Kind to cattle, economical way of carrying – A cooly in Wynaad, excellent, always found to carry in this way 3 country maunds = 75 lbs – How the regulation is to be fixed in the plains

Ks
16/8/97

Of course allowance must be made for gangs below par in health or strength.

Agree with the Hon. Mr. Bruce.

G.S.K. 17.8.97

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture)
in Press Number 555 dated 7 August 1897

Resolution

The Famine Commissioner fears, from what has come to his notice in Kurnool, that some misunderstanding has existed as to the purport of his proceedings No 520A dated 21st July 1897 Communicating G.O No 549 dated 9 July 1897 as to the steps to be taken regarding tasks and distance allowance

2. Mr Fawcett Stuart very sensibly remarks in his fortnightly report for the 15th July, the mere reduction in the distance allowance will, in most cases be sufficient, and no further reduction in tasks is necessary. The idea seems to have gone abroad disseminated by some mischievous persons that tasks were generally inadequate This was not true. The allowance for distance, given under Inspector's G.O No 216 dated 30 March 1897, made no provision for tasks on the works, for persons who also came from a distance somewhat lenient reports during the hot weather, wherever these concessions were given effect to. As a fact they were not all given effect to in some places, or were introduced two months after the order sanctioning them. It is not necessary here to go into the question or when or owing to what obstruction or omissions, this was so. These concessions however, which were absolutely necessary to save life during the hot weather, are no longer necessary, and the mere reduction in distance allowance will, in many cases, bring the tasks to the full limit of what can reasonably be expected from coolies as well as bullocks. It was because the Famine Commissioner strictly foresaw this, that in his proposals the distance allowance was approved

vide items (i) & (iii), para 9 of
Proceedings under G.O No 549 dated 9/8/97.

approved by Government, vide Board's proc. No 449 dated 28 June 1897 after recommending that the distance allowance should be reduced he added that tasks should be increased by 25 per-cent; or by such less amount as would be necessary to bring them up to full tasks. These full tasks are, until the Collectors modify them, the full tasks of the districts Task Schedules modified by such allowance for distance as the existing orders still permit.

4. What the Famine Commissioner fears has been done in some cases is that the distance allowance has, on the one hand, been cut down, while without any reference to this fact, on the other hand, tasks have been raised, and the tasks assigned may be absolutely impossible.

5. In certain cases, the Famine Commissioner has found that the Superintending Engineer, without any reference to the Collector, has taken upon himself to introduce tasks of his own, and subordinate officers of the Public Works Department have taken upon themselves similarly to enhance even these tasks. It must be distinctly understood that the Superintending Engineer has no power whatever to meddle with the question of tasks nor has any officer of the P.W.D, the power to do so, except in communication with the Collector & the Divisional officer. Collectors will take instant steps to have all such tasks revised, if necessary. The task to be exacted in each case is such a task as an average gang can do between 8 A.M and noon and 2 P.M to sunset. It should be such a task as honest work can accomplish, but honest work is not synonymous with slave-driving. The hour 8 A.M is mentioned because the roll is supposed to be called at 7-30 A.M. and the coolies are not likely to settle down before 8 A.M.

Vide para 6 of Govt. No 393 - 19-7-97 - 75A

6

Late, at Panvel, the Famine Commissioner found that the metal carriers had been fined down to a wage of six pies for not performing an impossible task. The Superintending Engineer had fixed a task of 0.6 Cubic feet per unit for a lead of 1¼ miles. The Assistant Engineer had taken upon himself to raise this task to 0.8 cubic feet for a lead of 1¼ miles per unit. Neither of these officers had any power to fix a task. The mans task was therefore 3.2 cubic feet. 3.2 cubic feet weigh 275 lbs. Taking the average load of the present small baskets to be 30 lbs, a man had to make 9 trips of 1¼ miles to site and back, i.e. he had to walk 22½ miles to earn the B class wage. These men who were fined down to a wage of 6 pies lived 5 miles away from the work. They were therefore expected to walk 32½ miles to earn annas 1-11 even if the present distance allowance is given [10-(3×2)= 4 miles] the distance to be covered on the task would be 18½ miles which + 10, the distance from village and back, makes 28½ miles. There is no doubt that this is an unreasonable task. For the average coolie, 45 lbs weight would be a fair load and this might be used to calculate the task. Taking the Superintending Engineers task of 0.60 cubic feet per unit a man would have to carry 206 lbs per diem. This ÷ 45 gives about 5 trips of 1¼ miles which is a fair days work for a C Class Cooly. The baskets on the works are so small that they will only hold about 30 lbs and larger baskets must be supplied. Meanwhile B class male Coolies must carry two baskets each trip.

(True Extract)

Bombay 2/8

To
All Collectors & affected Districts. Famine Secretary
Secretary to Government Revenue Department

Inspecting officers noted by the Famine Commissioner in his inspections now in circ, who however made arrangements for the supply of larger baskets.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.	1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

Printed August th.

Proceedings, No. 555, 7th August 1897.

4220 Mis
25-1-97

AUGUST.

Tasks.—Issuing further instructions regarding — and distance allowance.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Resolution—No. 555, dated 7th August 1897.

The Famine Commissioner fears, from what has come to his notice in Kurnool, that some misunderstanding has existed as to the purport of his Proceedings, No. 520-A., dated 21st July 1897, communicating G.O., No. 549, dated 9th July 1897, as to the steps to be taken regarding tasks and distance allowance.

2. As Mr. Stuart very sensibly remarks in his fortnightly report for the 15th July, the mere reduction in the distance allowance will, in most cases, be sufficient, and no further reduction in tasks is necessary. The idea seems to have gone abroad, disseminated by some mischievous persons, that tasks were generally inadequate. This was not true. The allowance for distance given under G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897, made tasks on the works, for persons who came from a distance, somewhat lenient during the hot weather, wherever these concessions were given effect to. As a fact, they were not all given effect to in some places, or were introduced two months after the order sanctioning them. It is not necessary here to go into the question of when, or owing to what obstruction or omissions, this was so. These concessions, however, which were absolutely necessary to save life during the hot weather, are no longer necessary, and the mere reduction in distance allowance will, in many cases, bring up tasks to the full limit of what can reasonably be expected from coolies.

3. It was because the Famine Commissioner distinctly foresaw this, that in his proposals approved by Government—*vide* B.P., No. 470, dated 28th June 1897—after recommending that the distance allowance should be reduced, he added that tasks should be increased by 25 per cent., or by *such less amount* as would be necessary to bring them up to full tasks. These full tasks are, until the Collectors modify them, the full tasks of the district task schedules, modified by such allowance for distance as the existing orders still permit.

4. What the Famine Commissioner fears has been done, in some cases, is that the distance allowance has, on the one hand, been cut down, while, without any reference to this fact, on the other hand, tasks have been raised, and the tasks assigned may be absolutely impossible.

5. In certain cases, the Famine Commissioner has found that the Superintending Engineer, without any reference to the Collector, has taken upon himself to introduce tasks of his own, and subordinate officers of the Public Works Department have taken upon themselves similarly to enhance even these tasks. It must be distinctly understood that the Superintending Engineer has no power whatever to meddle with the question of tasks, nor has any officer of the Public Works Department the power to do so, except in communication with the Collector or the Divisional officer. Collectors will take instant steps to have all such tasks revised, if necessary. The task to be exacted in each case is such a task as an average gang can do between 8 A.M. and noon and 2 P.M. to sunset. It should be such a task as honest work can accomplish, but honest work is not synonymous with slave-driving. The hour 8 A.M. is mentioned because the roll is supposed to be called at 7-30 A.M. and the coolies are not likely to have their tools given out and settle down to work before 8 A.M.

6. In a specific case at Paniem which is being separately disposed of, the Famine Commissioner found that the metal-carriers had been fined down to a wage of 6 pies for not performing an impossible task. The Superintending Engineer had fixed a task of 0·6 cubic foot per unit for a lead of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. This was done without any reference to the size of the basket carried. The Assistant Engineer had taken upon himself to raise this task to 0·8 cubic foot for a lead of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles per unit. Neither of these officers had any power to fix a task. The man's task was therefore 3·2 cubic feet; 3·2 cubic feet weigh 275 lbs. Taking the average load of the present small baskets to be 30 lbs., a man had to make nine trips of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to site and back, *i.e.*, he had to walk $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles to earn the B-class wage. These men who were fined down to a wage of 6 pies lived 5 miles away from the work. They were therefore expected to walk $32\frac{1}{2}$ miles to earn As. 1–11. Even if the present distance allowance is given [$10-(3\times2)=4$ miles], the distance to be covered *on the work* would be $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles, which + 10, the distance from village and back, makes $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles. There is no doubt that this is an unreasonable task. For the average cooly, 45 lbs. weight would be a fair load and this might be used to calculate the task. Taking the Superintending Engineer's task of 0·6 cubic foot per unit, a man would have to carry 206 lbs. per diem, or nearly two cwt. This divided by 45 gives about five trips or $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles, which is a fair day's work for a B-class cooly. The baskets on the works are so small that they will only hold about 30 lbs. and larger baskets must be supplied. Meanwhile B-class male coolies must carry two baskets each trip. They can do this easily by packing one basket flat, and putting the other on top of it.

(True Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Collectors of affected districts.
„ Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

RETURN

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

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189- DATED

NT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O., 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.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only