

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. ⁴⁴⁷⁰~~4327~~

DATED ^{26 Aug.}~~18 Aug.~~

[Despatch Abstract.]

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

BACK PAPERS.

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

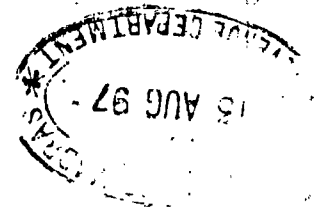
FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

The Hon. Mr. C. D. S.
The Hon. Mr. H. Bliss & Co.
H.R. the Governor.

CURRENT No. 6918



From the Board of Revenue
Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture
cladras
No. 555 Press

Order his 204 470 d/26 Aug 97
his 204 327 d/18 Aug 97
Recorded
Dated 7th August 1897

2. The Famine Comm. is requested to
give names and details with reference
to the remarks in para 5. That in
some cases the P.W. & S. have introduced
enhanced tasks with reference to
to Collectors
Registered
Enclosures
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At the Famine Comm. 24-8-97
P.W. & S.

SUBJECT.

Famine tasks

14/8/97. I thought this Fm. to be instructions regarding
in Comm. yesterday. From para
9 of the B. F. Memo in G.O. no and distance allowance
549. 7th July 97. (Signed B) it
is plain that it was the intention
both to raise tasks 25% and to
not allow the indulgence in
14/8/97

Distance. It will be seen that the Famine Commr in para 3 of the current gives an entirely different meaning to the word. Is this to be allowed or shall he be told to cancel the present F.C. ? It will take a long time to undo this. The harm this F.C. will cause.

BACK PAPER

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The F.C. Sec. quotes the F.C. accepted was to the effect that the distance allowance should be reduced, and that the tasks should be raised whenever they were less than a full day's work - the enhancement not being more than 25%. He did not direct that tasks should be raised in cases where they were equal to a full day's work. In para 5 of the same F.C. the F.C. says "some gangs are already working full tasks", & he has since repeated again & again to this effect. In the F.C. under review he says, "it is not true that tasks are generally made up". 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 should be told to cancel this order.

In para 5 he says that engineers have introduced enhanced tasks without reference to the Commr. He should be asked for names & details.

The idea certainly was that the distance allowance was to be cut down and that the task was to be raised 25%. Perhaps we should have added to the letter provision "but not so as to exceed a full day's task" - with this qualification there should be no room for complaint. Perhaps the labourers live at a distance, they think, in any opinion, & content on the work.

The Famine Commr is abundant in his hand. An ordinary load for a man on a fairly good road is 60 lbs. The Indian shopkeeper the Kodakanal that always will carry a large load of goods, which weighs over 50 lbs, 16 smaller goods 12 up to a very small lot, 1 in 5 or 6. At 55 lbs the 27 lbs lot, 12 lbs of goods in 5 trips = 124 lbs. 10 miles to open the village, but to a should say - if the tasks only held 30 lbs, they in the end will carry "casualty" only 2 at a time? This is a very common way of carrying - a cart in bygone, excellent, always used & heavy in this way 3 country men = 75 lbs. He is the regular load in the plain.

16/8/97
General commr must be made of gangs before he is in health & strength.

Inquire into the F.C. Sec. Case.

25/8/97

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 21 July 1897 Communicating G.O No 549 dated 9 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 15 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

this by some mischievous persons that tasks were generally inadequate. This was not true. The allowance for distance, given under G.O No 216 dated 30 March 1897, made no provision for persons who also came from a distance somewhat lenient reports of driving 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 later than the order sanctioning them. It is not necessary here to go into the question of when or going 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 tasks to the full limit of what can reasonably be expected from coolies.

It was because the Famine Commissioner distinctly foresaw this, that in his proposals he asked for the distance allowance.

vide it was 1/11/11, para 9 of the F.C. Sec. 549 dated 9/7/97.
approved

1. approved by Government, Vide Board's Memo No 470 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 what-
ever to meddle with the question of tasks. Not has any officer of the P.W.D., 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 exact 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.

at Panam, the Famine Commissioner found that the metal carriers had been fined down to a wage of six pias for not performing an impossible task. The Superintending Engineer had fixed a task of 0.6 Cubic feet per unit for a load of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The Assistant Engineer had taken upon himself to raise this task to 0.8 Cubic feet for a load 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 9 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 pias lived 5 miles away from the work. They were therefore expected to walk $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles to earn annas 1-11. Even if the present distance allowance is given [$10 \times 3 \times 2$] = 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 coolie, 45 lbs weight would be a fair load and this might be used to calculate the task. Taking the Superintending Engineer's task of 0.60 Cubic feet per unit a man would have to carry 206 lbs per diem. This $\div 45$ gives about 5 trips of $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

(This Extract)

All Collectors of Affected Districts. Famine Secretary
Secretary to Government Revenue Department

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

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Printed August th.

Proceedings, No. 555, 7th August 1897.

4470 This
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 [$10 - (3 \times 2) = 4$ 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.)

B. J. Allen 28/8
Famine Secretary.

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

Encl. Md. Pahlavan.

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