

Revenue (1897) Department

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 464

DATED 16th June 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief.

According Board's Progs. issuing instructions to the collector of Tinnevely in regard to the preparations to be made in the D. for administering - if the South-west monsoon fails.

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 Political (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4836.

25/16/97
The Hon. Mr. Curzon
at the Governor

N. 464 of 16th June 1897 From
The Board of Revenue
Sett.

Order (Purs)

Recorded

11/14/97

No. 410.

Dated 2nd June 1897

Received 9.6.97

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Famine Relief

Issuing instructions to
the Collr. of Tenasserim in regard
to the preparations to be made
in the St. for administering
— if South-west monsoon
fails.

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
B.P.	352	Rev.	18.5.97
fo.	2627	Rev. L. S.	22.5.97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.



Recd.

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1897.

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Printed June th.

Proceedings, 2nd June 1897, No. 410.

JUNE.

Famine-Relief.—Issuing instructions to the Collector of Tinnevely in regard to the preparations to be made in the district for administering — if south-west monsoon fails.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

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G.O., No. 464, 16th June 1897.

JUNE.

Famine Relief.

Recording Board's Proceedings issuing instructions to the Collector of Tinnevely in regard to the preparations to be made in the district for administering — if the south-west monsoon fails.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 2nd June 1897, No. 410:—

Read—the following letter from A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Famine Commissioner, dated 25th May 1897, Ref. A on Cur. No. 495-G.B. Gl.:—

In reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 352, dated 18th May 1897, I have the honour to report that I have selected a series of works which could be usefully taken in hand in the four northern taluks of the district (Srivilliputtur, Sattur, Sankaranayikón and Ottapidáram) and, in regard to them, have placed myself in communication with the Superintending Engineer in order to ascertain the establishment and tools likely to be required in the event of its being necessary to open relief works. In regard to the same taluks, I am also preparing lists of circles for gratuitous relief and am issuing instructions for the preparation of the necessary lists under section 75 of the Famine Code. I have ventured to restrict the scope of my arrangements and inquiries to these four taluks because, being for the most part dry taluks with no river irrigation, there is a remote possibility that they might be affected by a failure of the rains sooner than the rest of the district. The other taluks all enjoy more or less the advantage of river irrigation and are not likely to be affected unless the monsoon should entirely fail to supply water to the rivers—an event which practically never happens.

2. I beg, however, respectfully to solicit instructions as to whether it is really necessary to make any preparations in this district in view of the possibility of the failure of the approaching south-west monsoon. Speaking, broadly, the south-west monsoon has but little effect on this district except in the river valleys. The rivers receive supplies from rain which falls in the hills at that period (June to September) and wet crops are then grown in the areas to which river irrigation extends; but, except for crops grown under wells, dry cultivation in the whole district is not carried on to any great extent at that period of the year, because the usual rainfall in the plains is very slight, and the dry crops are cultivated from October onwards.

The season in fasli 1306 has, as the Board is aware, been on the whole very favourable, and it is difficult to conceive how a season of plenty can be converted into one of want in the space of four months.

3. If the Board should agree with the view put forward in the last paragraph, I beg that early instructions may be issued so that the labour of collecting information under section 75 of the Code may be saved. Meanwhile arrangements and enquiries will proceed as indicated in paragraph 1.

Resolution—dated 2nd June 1897, No. 410.

The Board concurs with the Collector that the probability of having to open any famine-relief operations in Tinnevely is remote.

2. The Collector however has not noticed the influence which widespread distress in neighbouring districts might have on Tinnevely prices. Some of the operations directed by Government, moreover (e.g., the division of the district into village-relief circles), are such as require much time and thought, and, if well done, the result will remain a valuable record available for the future.

The preparations are also not without value in familiarizing the district officials with what their duties will be if, and when, relief has to be afforded.

3. The Board is not prepared to modify previous instructions further than to say that no enquiries need be, at present, made as to individuals likely to require relief. In other respects, the Collector and the district officials should, as directed by Government, get themselves ready at all points for a famine, just as the crew of a vessel is drilled to meet the contingency of a fire at sea.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Tinnevely.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 464, Revenue, dated 16th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.