Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 473

DATED 18th June 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Administration of Famine Relief.

Stating that the rainfall up to date in most of the affected districts has been up to the average, and that the prospects of the south-west monsoon are favourable, and instructing the Famine Commissioner as to the measures to be adopted in future in the —.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	549/97						

Print. m/s abroad
Relief Famine Comm the PWD

RS
18-6-97

Order. No. 473 of 18th June 1897.

H.E. the Governor in Council observes that the rainfall up to date has in most of the affected districts been up to the average and that so far as can be seen the prospects of the S.W. monsoon are favourable. The cultivation of the early crops which has already begun in some of the affected tracts will, as the season advances, absorb considerable numbers of the labourers now employed on relief works, and with a view to ensure that all those whose circumstances allow of it return at once to their ordinary avocations H.E. in Council resolves to request the Famine Comm^r to direct that the following measures be taken by Collectors on receipt of telegraphic instructions from Govt.

2. In G.O.No.216 dated 20th March '97, the Govt. has authorized an allowance on a time scale for the distance which the labourers have to travel to and from the works. This has been granted on a very liberal scale but only as an alternative to the provision of hutted accommodation, and orders have already

issued that the concession was not intended to apply to cases in which such accommodation was available. The allowance will now be discontinued altogether; but when taking this step Collectors should provide huts for the labourers to live in at a new central works so as to meet the case of those who are really in need of relief and are willing to live at the works.

3. Govt. is also aware from reports which it has received that the task now executed has in many ~~cases~~ instances been allowed to dwindle to a small amount of work. Collectors ~~will be instructed~~ The Famine Comr will be instructed therefore to raise the task at once by 25% generally, and afterwards from time to time to still further increase it ~~over the area to be fixed by them~~ with due regard to the indemnity of the demands for agricultural labour in various parts of the district by such percentages as they may think called for, and in both cases to enforce its execution by fines ~~to the extent of Rs 10~~, ~~recoverable~~, but not reduce the ~~wages~~ earnings of workers below the C wage.

4. If ~~by any cause whatever~~ in consequence of these measures the numbers on any work are reduced to ~~less~~ not more than 500, Collectors should close the work in question and should draft to a central work all those willing to go to it

5. After the receipt of this order no new relief works should be opened except under the special sanction of ~~the~~

6. In regard to gratuitous relief Govt. does not consider it necessary to suggest any steps for its contraction

at present. Collectors must close kitchens and abolish relief circles with regard to local circumstances which are best known to them, and H.E. the Governor in Council considers it enough to direct that after the receipt of this order no new kitchens should be opened and no kitchen once closed should be reopened without the sanction of the Famine Commissioner who will report the ground of necessity therefor to Govt.

7. The number of works and kitchens closed in accordance with the above instructions should be ~~reported~~ intimated in the weekly ~~to Government~~ famine telegram

Approved in Council

28/6/87.

To the Famine Comr
The P. W. D.

Endd 28/6/87
60/3
Endd 3/7/87

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

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G.O., No. 473, 18th June 1897.

JUNE.

Administration of Famine Relief.

Stating that the rainfall up to date in most of the affected districts has been up to the average, and that the prospects of the south-west monsoon are favourable; and instructing the Famine Commissioner as to the measures to be adopted in future in the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Order—No. 473, Revenue, dated 18th June 1897.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the rainfall up to date has in most of the affected districts been up to the average and that so far as can be seen the prospects of the south-west monsoon are favourable. The cultivation of the early crops which has already begun in some of the affected tracts will, as the season advances, absorb considerable numbers of the labourers now employed on relief works; and, with a view to ensure that all those whose circumstances allow of it return at once to their ordinary avocations, His Excellency in Council resolves to request the Famine Commissioner to direct that the following measures be taken by Collectors on receipt of telegraphic instructions from Government.

2. In G.O., No. 216, dated 30th March 1897, the Government has authorized an allowance on a time-scale for the distance which the labourers have to travel to and from the works. This has been granted on a very liberal scale but only as an alternative to the provision of hutting accommodation, and orders have already issued that the concession was not intended to apply to cases in which such accommodation was available. The allowance will now be discontinued altogether; but when taking this step Collectors should provide huts for the labourers to live in at a central work so as to meet the case of those who are really in need of relief and are willing to live at the works.

3. Government is also aware from reports which it has received that the task now executed has in many instances been allowed to dwindle to a small amount of work. The Famine Commissioner will instruct Collectors therefore to raise the task at once by 25 per cent., generally, and afterwards from time to time to still further increase it with due regard to the intensity of the demand for agricultural labour in various parts of the district by such percentages as they may think called for, and in both cases to enforce its execution by fines which should not, however, reduce the earnings of workers below the C wage.

4. If in consequence of these measures the numbers on any work are reduced to not more than 500, Collectors should close the work in question and should draft to a central work all those willing to go to it.

5. After the receipt of this order no new relief works should be opened except under the special sanction of Government.

6. In regard to gratuitous relief Government does not consider it necessary to suggest any steps for its contraction at present. Collectors must close kitchens and abolish relief circles with regard to local circumstances which are best known to them, and His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it enough to direct that, after the receipt of this order, no new kitchens should be opened and no kitchen once closed should be re-opened without the sanction of the Famine Commissioner who will report the ground of the necessity therefor to Government.

7. The number of works and kitchens closed in accordance with the above instructions should be mentioned in the weekly season telegrams.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

60 Copies.