Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 481.

DATED 26th January 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. only a copy of the report to Govt. on the affairs of the Madras Presidency for Decr 1896.

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.

The Hon. Mr. Grace C.I.E.
The Hon. Mr. Bliss C.I.E.
H.E. the Governor

From

The Board of Revenue

(Rev. Sett., L.R. & Agri.).

Order Mis No. 481 of 26th Jany 1897

Recorded.

A.C. Madras E

No. 27-A.

Dated 14th January 1897

Received 16th 16/1/97

Registered 16th

Enclosures

Spare copies

note

In para 3 of its letter to the Govt. of India the Board introduces the unsettled question of whether rule 20 of Appendix VI to the Famine Code should be strictly enforced, and makes it appear that the Board is right and that the Govt. is wrong. The propriety of this procedure is to be considered.

7/1/97 I think the Govt. opinion should not be asked in this case

19.1.97

The Board were certainly wrong in telling Govt. so positively

20/1/97 that it is a fact that

SUBJECT.

Affected districts in the Madras Presidency.

Submitting to Government copy of a report to the Government of India on the — for December 1896.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Sunday to reduce famine wages as rule laid down by Govt is wrong. I have not seen the G.O. or the B.D.Pro on that point yet, and it seems to have been delayed. I remember Mr. La Touche communicated the B.D.Pro. to all Collectors, before it came to Govt, & I noted that he ought to be censured for this. The B.D's pronouncement — Mr was what same effect as what is stated now to be Govt's, was wrong, I think; but whether it was right or wrong, all they ought to have told the Govt of I was that a difference of opinion has arisen as to whether it shd be adhered to or not.

JG
20/1/97

On the face of it, I don't see anything in the B.D's remarks. Opinions may be wrong with regd to famine papers, but they must submit & I don't remember them well enough to give an opinion.

BS
20/1/97

I don't think there is much harm in what the Board has said in this instance. I think they are sufficiently snubbed by the D.O in another file.

#54
23.1.97

Record simply with expression of D.O. ~~Govt~~ in letter under G.O. No. 43 of 26-1-97.

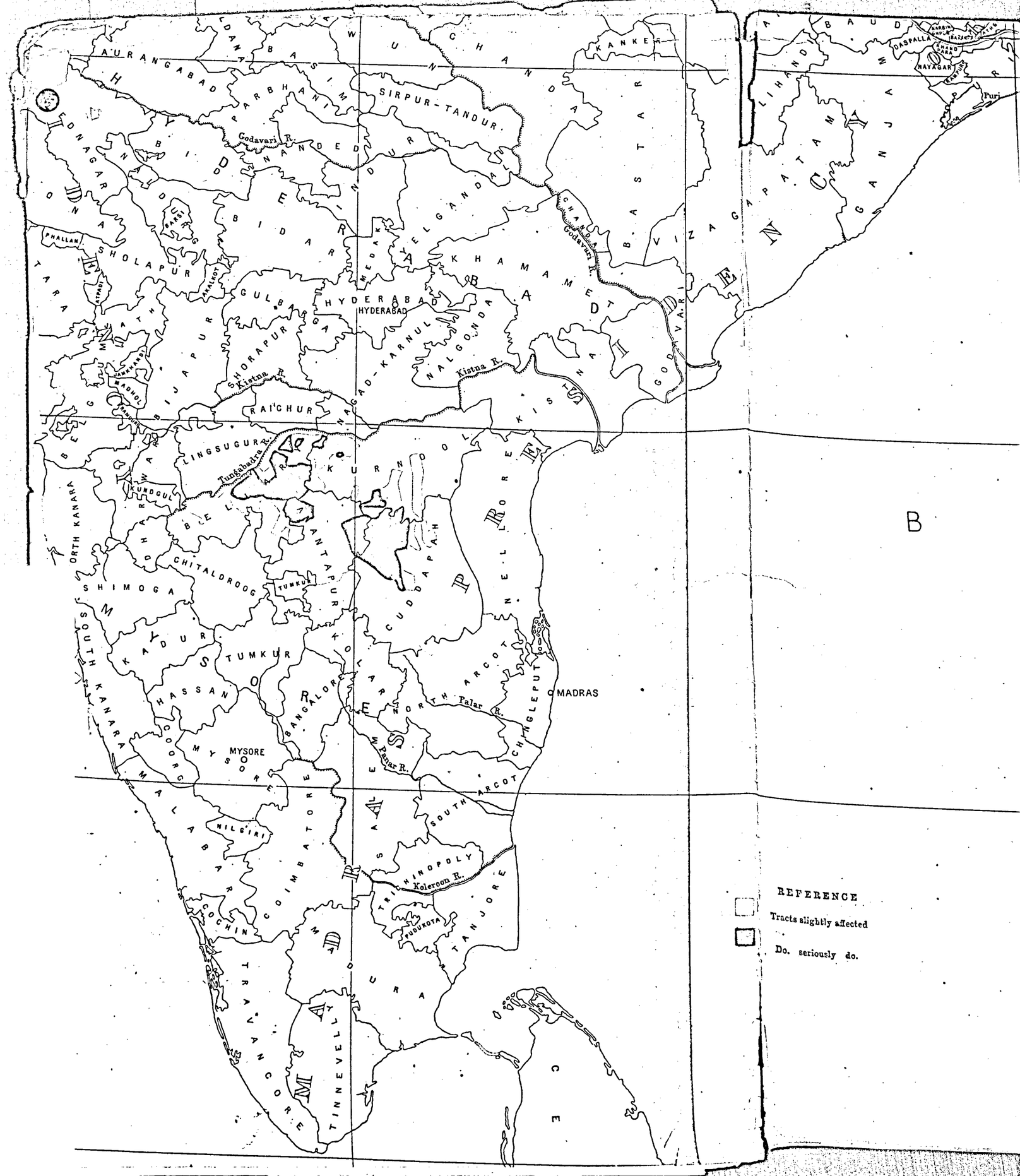
26/1/97.

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G O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.


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KISTNA
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COCHIN
TRAVANCORE
TINNEVELLY
MADURA
SHIMOGA
KADUR
HASSAN
COORG
MALABAR
SOUTH KANARA
NORTH KANARA
B
REFERENCE
Tracts slightly affected
Do. seriously do.

189
REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.
Entered No.
To Current No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. R. V. SRINIVASIAR Avargal, B.A., Rao Bahadur, Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated 14th January 1897, No. 27 :—

I am directed to submit herewith the Board's report on the affected districts for the month of December 1896, prepared in accordance with the instructions conveyed in Government of India Circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code (1896).

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A.

For the period ending Saturday evening the 2nd January 1897.

District.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population of column 4.	Numbers on relief works on last day of the period.		
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Deccan.	SQ. MLS.		SQ. MLS.				
Kurnool	7,514	818	981	182,713	..	..	3,538
Bellary	5,975	900	3,278	465,600	1,190	12,240	..
Anantapur	4,886	709	3,468	466,582	..	..	323
Cuddapah	8,731	1,272	1,667	284,482	..	1,631	568
Total ..	27,106	3,699	9,394	1,399,377	1,190	13,871	4,429

District.	Numbers on relief works on last day of the period—*cont.*		Numbers on gratuitous relief.	Prices of principal food-grains in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.			
	Class D.	Total.		Rice.	Ragi.	Cumbu.	Cholum.
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Deccan.							
Kurnool	..	3,538	88	9·1	15·8	12·7	15·1
Bellary	32	13,462	* 1,811	9·4	17·8	..	14·4
Anantapur	11	334	26	9·3	17·7	14·5	14·6
Cuddapah	10	2,209	† 4,874	9·4	17·6	14·5	14·2
Total ..	53	19,543	6,799				

* Includes 852 weavers relieved. † Includes 4,765 weavers relieved.

Remarks.—The affected area remains almost unchanged from that alluded in the report for November, although, within the four Deccan districts in which it lies, the portions more particularly affected are becoming more clearly defined. Since the last report was submitted, there has been no improvement. The rainfall at the end of November has, as was anticipated, proved inadequate to bring about much change in the affected area, but it prevented the extension of the area affected, and as the rainfall of the north-east monsoon over the whole of the southern half of the Presidency, though late, has been copious, a fair harvest over that area has been rendered secure, and the prospect of the in-coming of this has reacted in some measure in the affected districts. Ordinarily prices would go on rising from December up to June, but in this

year, it is possible that prices may simply harden or even fall. The high prices of November were partly due to scarcity elsewhere; partly to the long drought over extensive tracts; partly to scare amongst the ryots owing to ancient prophecies, and partly to the combinations of the merchants.

The first cause continues to act, but trade has not recovered from the shock caused by the rains of November, and export is not now so strong a factor in causing a rise in prices. The second cause was greatly minimised by the copious, though late, rains of November to January, in consequence of which seven threatened districts have been removed from the danger zone. For the same reason the third cause does not now operate so strongly. The ryots are taking heart, and in parts of two districts it is reported that they are bringing some of their hoards of grain for sale. The fourth cause also is not now so powerful, as the merchants begin to think that it is better to sell at a high price than wait for a higher price which they may not realise. The harvests in the four Southern and two West Coast districts are already coming in, and those in the seven districts saved will be coming in in March and April, just when prices would begin to rise high above the scarcity rate. While, therefore, it is not safe to prophesy, there are cheering features in the case which would not have been hoped for even early in December.

2. In the affected districts, the prospect of any harvest from the late sown crops is small, but in many parts a fair outturn from the cotton crop, which was on the ground when the rain alluded to fell, is now probable, but it is already being picked at least two months earlier than usual. This, and a certain amount of cultivation under spring channels and wells, and some scanty harvests of the early sown crops still afford some employment for the agricultural labourers of the affected area. So far as the harvest returns of the early-sown crops have yet come in, the yield in the affected area has been very poor, and large areas have been entirely lost.

In reply to Government of India telegram No. 2484, dated 18th December, a return showing the normal area of second crop was submitted. It is not clear for what purpose the return was required, but, as a means of gauging the condition of the affected tracts, it by itself is useless, and, until the results of both first and second sowings are known, no further information can be given in respect to the crops of the current season.

3. The November rainfall caused some fresh grass to spring up, but over a large portion of the affected area black cotton-soils prevail on which the natural herbage is always scanty, whilst the ordinary pastures do not afford much grazing, as they too often consist merely of arid and stony wastes. The sowings made on the arable land may, however, produce a small amount of fodder, and the outlook for the cattle is rather better than it was. The lesson of 1891–92 has not been forgotten, and everywhere more strenuous efforts have been made to save the cattle, of which large numbers have been taken to Mysore.

4. Prices during December became generally slightly cheaper, but, towards the end of the period reported on, showed a hardening tendency. The rates quoted in table A are those reported for January 2nd. The fluctuations since the last report are shown in the following table:—

Grains.	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.												Scarcity rates.
	Kurnool.			Bellary.			Anantapur.			Cuddapah.			
	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January	
	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	
Rice	8·7	8·8	9·1	7·8	8·4	9·4	8·8	9·0	9·3	9·0	9·2	9·4	7·9
Ragi	15·0	15·9	15·8	15·2	16·8	17·8	16·9	17·3	17·7	17·0	17·4	17·6	16·0
Cholum ..	14·1	14·6	15·1	12·2	13·3	14·4	13·2	14·3	14·6	13·2	13·6	14·2	15·0
Cumbu	13·2	12·4	12·7	..	..	..	13·2	13·2	14·5	14·0	14·3	14·5	14·0

The rates for the staple "dry" grains on which the people chiefly subsist are, it will be seen, at about the scarcity rate level, and, so far as is known, at these rates, it would be profitable to export the grains—cholum (*Sorghum vulgare*) and cumbu (*Pennisetum typhoideum*)—which are commonly used in other parts of India, to the North-West or the Central Provinces. Trade, however, appears to be very inactive, and exports northwards from the Presidency have so far been on a small scale. Large stocks of grain are believed to be held by the well-to-do ryots of the affected area, which they are unwilling to part with, and the merchants are at present afraid to embark in importation from the south owing to the warning given by the collapse of prices after the rainfall of November. The following table shows, as far as the information is available, comparative figures for the receipts and despatches of food-grains from the railway stations in the affected districts during the four weeks ending November 28th and December 26th 1896, respectively:—

District.	Railway.	November.		December.	
		Receipts.	Despatches.	Receipts.	Despatches.
		MDS.	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.
Kurnool	Southern Mahratta Railway ..	† 21,364	† 3,550	† 3,774	† 2,737
Bellary	Southern Mahratta Railway ..	† 51,784	† 3,087	† 7,289	† 2,671
	Madras Railway	54,661	11,512	10,645	11,321
Anantapur	Southern Mahratta Railway ..	† 7,539	† 2,351	† 3,256	† 16,672
	South Indian Railway	•	•	† 103	† ..
	Madras Railway	46,128	4,955	6,431	5,581
Cuddapah	South Indian Railway	•	•	† 1,586	† 1,163
	Madras Railway	103,774	24,259	13,817	16,973

• Not available. † For two weeks only.

The falling off in the receipts at stations on the Madras Railway Company's system occurred suddenly during the week ending December 5th, and was in part due to the interruption of communication owing to breaches in the line near the southern frontier of the Cuddapah district. It is hoped that, in the future, the administration of the Southern Mahratta Railway may be more prompt in furnishing statistics so far as that line is concerned.

5. The people generally, throughout the affected area, continue in good condition, but in parts of the Bellary district the Commissioner during his inspection observed a number who showed signs of habitual under-feeding. To these, the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner, who was in the district, was drawn. That officer is now on tour of inspection in the affected area. The numbers resorting to the relief works have shown a small decrease in the month; the changes being as shown below:—

District.	Relief workers			At kitchens			Weavers		
	On December		On January	On December		On January	On December		On January
	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.	5th.	19th.	2nd.
Kurnool ..	3,728	4,387	3,538	141	137	88	..	..	..
Bellary ..	13,815	14,984	13,462	299	353	959	972	943	852
Anantapur ..	423	500	334	65	60	26	..	..	..
Cuddapah ..	4,517	2,707	2,209	183	171	109	..	2,000	4,765
Total ..	22,483	22,578	19,543	688	721	1,182	972	2,943	5,617

6. In the Kurnool district, a portion of one taluk benefited greatly by the November rainfall and has been removed from the affected area; in another taluk, the coolies deserted the relief works at about the same time, but the reasons for this are not clear though one was undoubtedly the distance they had to travel to and from work, and

the Commissioner, who visited the work shortly before it was deserted, has grave doubts whether the desertion must not be attributed to the manner in which the work was managed by the Engineer in charge. Orders directing detailed inquiry to be made have been issued. In two other taluks works are now open, and in one of these, the numbers have decreased, owing partly, it is reported, to some harvest work being available.

In Bellary, there has been a small decrease owing chiefly to stringent measures having been taken to get rid of idlers, and to improved organisation; but local inspection has shown the Commissioner that the number of works at present open is inadequate and orders for the opening of more works have been given. For a short time also field work drew away some of the coolies who are now returning to the works.

In Anantapur, there is only one work open, and the people are reported to still find some agricultural employment in the fields.

In Cuddapah, in one taluk there has been a considerable decrease, owing chiefly to the organisation of relief to weavers at their own trade; whilst in the other two affected taluks the decrease is believed by the Collector to be only temporary.

7. Orders have been issued by Government placing all works in the affected districts under the charge of the Public Works Department, with strict instructions to organise and carry them out according to the rules of Appendix VI to the Famine Code, the payments being, however, arranged for by the Revenue Department. The transfer is now being effected, but the Public Works Department in Kurnool states that it is unable to take over the works owing to want of establishment.

No change has been made in the regulation of wages, but the Government has issued strict orders that payments are to be regulated in accordance with rule 28 of the appendix quoted, and the fact that this rule goes beyond the provisions of section 107 of the code has been brought to its notice.

8. Kitchens have been or are being established in connection with all works for the relief of the infirm dependants and children of workers.

9. Relief to weavers at their own trade has been organised at Adóni in Bellary, and at Jammalamadugu in Cuddapah. The schemes adopted at these places have been modelled on the lines of Appendix VII to the Madras Famine Code.

10. No gratuitous relief, other than that given in kitchens, has as yet been found necessary.

11. The mortality returns for November last give the following results; those for December are not yet available:—

District.	Number of deaths recorded in November 1896.	Average.
Kurnool	1,109	1,390
Bellary	1,337	1,374
Anantapur	1,104	990
Cuddapah	1,834	2,665

In Bellary, although there is a small decrease on the whole, there was a considerable increase in two taluks. The fact that considerable emigration to Mysore has taken place must not be lost sight of. This emigration in some tracts comes to nearly one-third of the male population. These have partly gone for employment and partly with cattle.

In Anantapur, there was a decrease in the more affected portion, and the increase elsewhere was due to cholera.

12. As to the two districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám regarding the condition of which anxiety still continues, it may be noticed that two test works opened at the middle of December in the latter failed to attract workers on Famine Code conditions, and that the same result followed on applying these conditions to a work in the former district during the week ending January 9th. Prices, however, continue to be very high in these districts, and there has been no improvement in their condition. Emigration is, however, active, and there is still some employmeut to be had in gathering the scanty harvests.

MONTHLY Famine statement B for the period ending Saturday evening the 2nd January 1897.

District.	Maximum number for whom relief is estimated to be required in case of serious famine.	Numbers for whom relief was provided in programme of relief works.			Numbers for whom relief can be provided by works remaining in programme on date of report.	
		Date of programme.	On large works.	Others.	On large works.	Others.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Deccan.						
Kurnool	163,000	18th May 1896.	198,041	87,363	196,245	87,081
Bellary	180,000	Do.	324,615	29,888	319,332	29,709
Anantapur	141,800	6th July 1896.	143,224	34,567	144,992	34,529
Cuddapah	253,800	22nd May ,,	203,779	110,170	202,280	109,945
Total ..	738,600		869,659	261,993	860,849	261,264

District.	Expenditure since April 1st up to the latest day for which figures are available.			Advances given—April 1st up to the end of the month under		Revenue suspended beyond the current official year.
	Date up to which expenditure is known.	Rupees omitting 000s.		Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	
		On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.	Rupees omitting 000s.	Rupees omitting 000s.	Rupees omitting 000s.
	8	9	10	11	12	13
Deccan.						
Kurnool	2nd Jan. 1897.	17,	*	1,	..	..
Bellary	Do. ..	48,	*	1,	2,	..
Anantapur	Do. ..	2,	*	25,	..	..
Cuddapah	Do. ..	13,	*	1,	..	..
Total ..		80,	*	28,	2,	..

* Not reported.

RESOLUTION—dated 14th January 1897, No. 27-A.

Copy submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasa Ai
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two copies of the map.

Copy to all Collectors.
,, to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January th.

Proceedings, 14*th Jan.* 1897, *No.* 27-A.

Affected districts in the Madras Presidency.—Submitting to Government copy of a report to the Government of India on the — for December 1896.

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