Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4828

DATED 14 Sept. 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

According with remark B re
issuing instructions in regard to the calculation of wages for relief works
in Gurgaon.

25/11/14

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. Cable C.S.I.
H. E. the Governor

CURRENT No.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
11 SEP 97
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

From, The Board of Revenue
(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and agriculture.)

No. 591 Press.

Dated 27th August 1897

Received

Registered 7s 7D.

Enclosures

Spare copies.

L.O. 151 7s C
10-7-97

SUBJECT.

7s He Nature of the food Submitting with remarks for the information of Government, letter from the Collector of Ganjam reporting on the nuts taken by the people elsewhere

For Orders.

Relief wages in Ganjam were first calculated on the basis of ragi. This basis was changed into a mixture of one-fifth paddy and four-fifths ragi in G.O.Nos. 5 5-1-97 & 73 5-2-97 and when rice was allowed to be substituted for paddy the basis became one-fifth rice and four-fifths ragi. In 366 dy 20-5-97 on a report from the present collector Mr. Taylor the Board ~~allow~~ issued instructions that wages in the sub-division should be calculated one-fifth rice and four-fifths ragi, and on half rice and half-ragi. The Govt, however, doubted whether there was

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25/11/14

BACK PAPERS.

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suffer hardship. He thinks that the present food of the people was half rice and half ragi, and, while allowing the Board's instructions to stand, directed that further enquiries should be made on the point as section 121 directed that wages should be paid in the grain in ordinary use at the time of payment. The current is the reply.

2. Mr. Taylor says that his enquiries show that relief workers now use rice for both meals and that this is due to the high price of ragi which though nominally cheaper is really dearer (on account of loss by husking &c). He, however, questions the principle of adapting the grain actually used by the people under the pressure of high prices and considers that the food used in ordinary times should be taken. The Board is of opinion that rice should not be adopted in the district for calculating wages.

3. There is much force in the Collector's argument, but the principle of adopting the grain in use at the time of payment has already been acted on in some of the Deccan districts where a mixture of half ragi and half cholum has been substituted for cholum. This led to a reduction of the wages, but the adoption of the lowest principle in Ganjam would lead to an increase as rice is dearer than ragi. As this is undesirable, it is submitted that no change need be made now in Ganjam though we have to depart from the principle of section 121 by continuing to base wages on a mixture of half rice and half ragi.

JG
6/9/97

D.H
11.9.97

Dept. to.
11/9/97.

RS
3-9-97

4/9/97.

Go. 366 Rev
20/5/97 (V)

Dept 14/9/97

G. O. mis No 4828 dy 14 Sept 97
Recorded

2. Wages will continue to be calculated in accordance with the instructions issued in BP 312/26-4-97.

(This form

The Famine Comm
16/9/97

RS
11-9-97

25

(Sett. 24 2,000—20-10-96.)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 27th August 1897.

No. 591 Revs.

READ ..... again Boards' Proceedings No. 312 dated 26th April 1897.

Read also Boards' Proceedings No. 3871. mis dated 29th may 1897. Communicating to the Collector of Ganjam G. O. 366 dated 20th may 1897.

Read also Boards' Proceedings No. 4873. mis dated 3rd July 1897.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, Reference on G. B. No. 16/7 dated 26th July 1897.

With reference to Boards' Proceedings No. 4873 mis dated 3rd July 1897, I have the honor to report as follows as to the food of the people at the present time. The word "now" in the original reference escaped my notice and I regret the omission.

previous letter had made it clear that, in my opinion, were the difference between the man and woman's wage greater, the men would as a matter of fact be attracted to the works in large numbers and that though the individual woman might earn less the family as a whole would be the gainers by the arrangement and it was in the interest of the family as a whole including the woman worker that my suggestion was put forward tentatively as a possible modification of the Code so far as this district is concerned.

Resolution

Submitted for the information and orders of Government, with reference to G.O. 366 dated 20th May 1897.

2. In accordance with the concluding paragraph of the G.O. above quoted, wages in Ganjam are now calculated on the average price of rice and ragi combined. The Collectors' enquiries show that, with the present prices, it is as economical to use rice as ragi, and that in consequence the people generally consume the former grain. Rice too is far more easily and more quickly prepared for food than ragi, and for this reason, even if a little dearer, would probably be preferred to ragi by those who have to spend the greater portion of the day away from their houses. It appears that wages should be calculated on the price of rice alone.

(True copy and extract)

Illegible
31/8
Farming Secretary

To,

The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department

" Collector of Ganjam.

Ex P.J. 31/8

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
11 SEP 97
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

Printed September th.

Proceedings, No. 591, 27th August 1897.

G.O. 482 & 483
14-9-97

AUGUST.

Wages.—Submitting, with remarks, for the information of Government letter from the Collector of Ganjám reporting further on the question of the grain to be adopted for the calculation of the — of relief workers.

reposing in slothful ease and living upon the earnings of the rest of the family. By this arrangement I do not think that the family would lose anything as a whole while the outturn of work would certainly be much greater in proportion to the expenditure incurred.

8. Subject to this modification which I put forward with diffidence but at the same time with a feeling that the standard of comfort of a working family will be in no way lowered as a whole, so far as this district is concerned, I see no reason to modify my opinion that the wages on relief works should be fixed on a basis of half rice and half ragi.

9. In this connection I may note that, while during the current year, the ragi crop in the district was by no means poor, the failure being in the rice crops, especially in the rainfed land: yet from the moment that an artificial standard was set up by the grant of grain doles fixed on a standard of four-fifth ragi and one-fifth rice, the price of the former grain has risen with startling rapidity and in some cases is (allowing for pounding and clearing) actually dearer than rice. It is now being imported from Bangalore, Cocanada and elsewhere. I attribute this rise purely to a fictitious demand and had money doles instead of grain doles been distributed, the price of rice would have been higher and that of ragi lower than it is at present.

Resolution—Mis. No. 4873, dated 3rd July 1897.

The Collector was requested to report upon the habits of the people now, and not in ordinary times. He will now be requested to report the nature of the food now taken by the people.

2. The Famine Code provides a ration sufficient for subsistence, and the wage which will purchase that ration. That wage, with prices where they are, must necessarily be higher than the normal wage, which is unusually low in Ganjám, because hitherto that district has been continually enjoying the benefit of low prices, while other districts suffered. The railway has now brought Ganjám into touch with the rest of the Presidency, and a permanent rise of prices and of wages may be expected. The susceptibilities of the males are a purely sentimental grievance, and if the woman's wage only earns the woman's food, it is not clear how the man benefits by it, unless he stays at home, and eats it. If the woman's wage were reduced, her husband would still stay at home and eat it, and the last stage of that woman would be worse than the first. The Collector should not have mixed up two totally different questions in the same letter. Orders have been received from Government regarding a sort of piece-work arrangement to be known as "intermediate works," regarding which a reference will be made to Government.

3. The Collector's statement, in paragraph 5 of his letter, that "the cost is merely for the money amount of the wage and not to its corresponding grain value" is completely unintelligible.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Ganjám.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

READ—also the following letter from H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Ref. on G. B. No. 16-F., dated Camp, Konchana, 26th July 1897:—

With reference to B.P., Mis. No. 4873, dated 3rd July 1897, I have the honour to report as follows as to the food of the people at the present time. The word "now" in the original reference escaped my notice and I regret the omission.

2. Since receipt of the Proceedings under reference, I have made enquiries and also inspected the food brought by the relief workers to the works. I find that now the majority of them use rice both for the midday and evening meal. This may be ascribed to the present high price of ragi which renders rice, though nominally dearer, really cheaper and more nourishing as an article of food when allowance is made for wastage in the cleansing and grinding of ragi.

3. Some instances have also been brought to my notice in which recipients of grain doles have subsequently taken back the ragi and exchanged a portion of it for rice so as to ensure one meal of rice at least in the day. The universal cry at kitchens is for one meal of rice.

4. The above facts tend, I think, to show that rice is generally consumed in part by the people even under the stress of famine; and that ragi is not likely to be substituted therefor unless the price of rice is abnormally high and that of ragi low.

5. At the same time I would venture to express the opinion that the staple food of a tract must be the food consumed by the bulk of the population in ordinary years and not inferior and cheaper grain to which they are driven by the stress of famine and high prices. Otherwise, if the principle were pushed to its conclusion the rate of famine wages would have to be based on the market price of jungle roots and leaves.

6. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's remarks, the sentence in question was wrongly copied and it should have run as follows: "they look merely to the money amount of the wage and not to its corresponding grain value."

7. In regard to the Board's remark in paragraph 2 of its Proceedings under reference, I thought that my previous letter had made it clear that, in my opinion, were the difference between the man and woman's wage greater, the men *would*, as a matter of fact, be attracted to the works in larger numbers and that though the individual woman might earn less, the family as a whole would be the gainers by the arrangement and it was in the interests of the family as a whole including the woman worker that my suggestion was put forward tentatively as a possible modification of the Code so far as this district is concerned.

RESOLUTION—No. 591, dated 27th August 1897.

Submitted for the information and orders of Government, with reference to G.O., No. 366, dated 20th May 1897.

2. In accordance with the concluding paragraph of the Government Order above quoted, wages in Ganjám are now calculated on the average price of rice and ragi combined. The Collector's enquiries show that, with the present prices, it is as economical to use rice as ragi, and that in consequence the people generally consume the former grain. Rice too is far more easily and more quickly prepared for food than ragi, and for this reason, even if a trifle dearer, would probably be preferred to ragi, by those who have to spend the greater portion of the day away from their homes. It appears that wages should be calculated on the price of rice alone.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Ganjám.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

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When signed ——
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READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 .

JUDL No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. 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.	

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