Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 483

DATED 26 January 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to P. Subg letter from the Collr of Anantapur requesting orders as to the transfer of relief works from one Class to another.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 292

Sp. 7 6 11

From

The Board of Revenue

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

Madras

Order F. F. E. Mis No. 4839/26-1 dated 9 aug 1897

Recorded with reference to Go. no 1 dated 26-1 1897.

No. 465 Misc.

Dated 28th December 1896.

Received 14th January 1897.

Registered 14th "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Classification of Relief workers.

Submitting to Government, with remarks, letter from the Collector of Anantapur requesting orders as to the transfer of relief workers from one class to another.

1 Mr 1897.

2 The Board (Sett.) Secs. 2-2-97

3 Dir

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
No	379	Rev	31-12-96
Ro	424	Rev	28-4-92
Ro	734	Rev	18-7-92
Ro	434	Rev	10-12-96
Ro	244	Rev	9-4-96
Ro	839	Rev	11-8-92

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS, AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 21st December 1896, Ref. on Cur. No. 3842:—

In paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, No. 379, dated the 1st current, it is stated that the treatment of B class labourers as of C class is not authorized by the Code. The last sentence of section 97 allows a single relief worker or a whole gang to be transferred from one class to another. This, I presume, is permissible only when the original classification is found to be wrong and not otherwise, *i.e.*, a worker classed as able-bodied and accustomed to labour must remain always under class B, unless it is proved that he is not accustomed to labour. Short work, I suppose, is not to be taken under any circumstances as a criterion for a change from higher to lower class. I request to be informed whether my presumption is correct.

RESOLUTION—dated 28th December 1896, No. 465.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. In its recent orders Government has directed that, in cases of "weakness," the task of a gang should be reduced. This remark, which appears to be based on section 97 of the Famine Code, may be intended to apply to either B class or C class gangs. It is, however, not clear whether, in cases of proved weakness of a B class gang, the task should be reduced to that of a C class gang as appears to be contemplated by the closing sentence of section 97 of the code or whether an intermediate task might be prescribed. Similarly, in the case of a C class gang, which, owing to weakness, is unable to turn out the task prescribed for it in Form F, Appendix III, the question is whether a task intermediate between that task and such task as would be suitable to class D might be fixed. The fixing of such intermediate tasks does not appear to be contemplated by section 100 of the code; but is possible under sections 97 and 107, which say that the task allotted to a gang shall be "apportioned to its capabilities," and that "modifications" in the task may be made "to suit particular circumstances."

3. The Board would observe in this connection that the tasks set forth in Form F of Appendix III to the Famine Code should be regarded only as "standard tasks" for the guidance of local officers. These tasks are rough approximations, prepared in the Board's office, to the tasks which it was found possible, under the original code, to enforce. There is nothing on record as to the physique of the gangs, which were supposed to have executed those tasks, and that it was possible to enforce them in any case was due to the fact that the Collector would then, practically at will, as occurred in the Salem district—G.Os., Nos. 424 and 734, Revenue, dated 28th April and 18th July 1892—raise or lower the task according to the condition of relief workers. In fact, no hard-and-fast task was enforced. It is impossible for the Board

or the Code or for any authority to lay down a set of tasks which should be invariably enforced as the tasks must vary with local conditions; with the varying nature of the lead and material to be worked in and with the composition of the gangs as to age and sex and physical condition. It is apparently for this reason that the Code specially provides for altering the tasks.

4. The Board would also observe that it is only in cases in which tasks have been correctly assigned with reference to the capabilities of the gangs that deductions can be made, without causing undue hardship, in accordance with the scale laid down in Rule 28 of Appendix ~~III~~ IV. In the vast majority of cases, however, it is impossible to be sure, as pointed out in Board's Proceedings, No. 436, dated 15th December 1896, that the tasks have been correctly assigned; and this is presumably one reason why, in passing orders on the revised Famine Code submitted by the Board, the Government of India directed that there should be a general rule that fines should not be such as to reduce the wage below the minimum wage (*vide* paragraph 21 of the memorandum forwarded by the Government of India with its letter, No. 1142—6-2, dated 5th August 1895, communicated to the Board with G.O., No. 244, Revenue, dated 9th June 1896). In view of this distinct order of the Government of India the Board begs to repeat the request, contained in the Proceedings, No. 436, dated 15th December 1896, that the Government will be pleased to reconsider its order regarding the enforcement of Rule 28 of Appendix ~~III~~ IV, which, though it is in accordance with the system generally followed in this Presidency during the scarcity of 1891-92, and with the view taken by the Board in its memorandum No. 6076, dated 15th July 1892, printed with G.O., No. 839, Revenue, dated 11th August 1892, is at variance with the Code (section 106) as amended with reference to the directions of the Government of India. As already pointed out in paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 436, dated 15th December 1896, this provision regarding the limitation of fines is embodied in the Famine Codes of other provinces also.

5. In thus soliciting a reconsideration of the Government Order on the question of enforcing Rule 28 of Appendix VI, the Board begs leave to state, that though the works opened in the several affected tracts were originally started as test works when the rise of prices above scarcity rates indicated the necessity for the immediate introduction of relief measures, they have been found by the Commissioner in all parts of the affected districts inspected by him to be necessary for the relief of distress. Even if they were test works, the Board would draw attention to section 17 of the Famine Code, which embodies the rule contained in paragraph 7 of the Government of India memorandum above referred to, and lays down that test works should be regulated strictly according to the provisions contained in the Code as to relief works.

(True Copy and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Anantapur.
Copy to all Collectors.
" to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Ed. C. M. Thumbusawmy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1896.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January th, 1897.

Proceedings, 28*th Dec.* 1896, *No.* 465.

Classification of Relief workers.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, letter from the Collector of Anantapur requesting orders as to the transfer of relief workers from one class to another.

D/4 1,000—11-6-96.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 292 of 1897

From the Board of Rev (Settlement)

Dated 28—12— 1896.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grant C.I.E
H.E. the Governor

FOR ORDERS.

In the above the Board of Rev contends that task should be modified with reference to particular circumstances and the capabilities of gangs and that Rule 20 of Appendix VI on the subject of fines should not be strictly enforced.

2. In connection with B.P. No 436 dated 15—12—96 a note was submitted pointing out (i) that the system laid down in the Famine Code was rigid in the matter of tasks and fines; (ii) that the task ~~laid down~~ fixed at page 66 of the code should not be departed from except with the sanction of the Govt. in each case (S.107) (iii) that short work should be met by fines, and that the power to suspend fining when the effect was to reduce the wage below the minimum wage should be exercised only by the Govt, who should report his action to Govt (iv) that S. 97 provided the necessary elasticity by giving the Officer in charge of the works full discretion to alter the classification of the gangs;

and (V) that S. 106 of the Code did not as it should be did not support the Board's contention.

3. These principles were accepted by the H.M.S, and a draft order in accordance therewith has been submitted for approval.

4. The Board's present reference arises from its not grasping these principles correctly. It admits that the tasks set forth in the Code are averages of the tasks which it was possible to enforce in previous famines. and there is nothing to show that they were not enforced in the Ceded districts also. Some power to alter the tasks with reference to local requirements must be given, and the Code accordingly does so, but confines it the power to the Collr of the district. It is not clear whether the Board insists that it should be extended to Officers in charge of marks. Otherwise there is no case for any representation to be made on the subject.

5. When the error made in the amendment of S. 106 of the Code is pointed out to the Board, it is presumed that it will see that it has no case to urge in regard to fines.

KD 17.1.97 This Govt may be disposed of with reference to the draft G.O shown append to above passed. The G.O Mr has annexed.

19.1.97

FOR ORDERS.

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED 189 ,

CURRENT 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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