

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 510.

DATED 27th Jan, 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

According B.P., recording, with remarks.
report on the condition of Gorkha & silk weavers
at Adoni.

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. 706

No. Hm. m. p. 22

Order No. 510727th 2 Aug 1897
 27/11
 27/11/97
 Recorded.
 11/11/97

From
 The Board of Revenue
 (Rev. Sett., L. R. & Agri.).

No. 39 Press.

Dated 19th January 1897.

Received 25th

Registered 25th

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Weavers at Admi.

Recording, with remarks,
 report on the condition
 of Gosha and silk —

KD
 25/1/97

c. 26/1/97
 R. 27/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 19TH JAN. 1897, No. 39.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. S. RAMU IYER Avargal, Deputy Collector, Adóni Division, to the Collector of Bellary, dated 8th January 1897, Dis. No. 56:—

In obedience to your personal instructions, I have the honour to submit the following report on letter, dated 2nd instant, from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras regarding the necessity for giving special relief to the "silk weavers" of Adóni.

2. The "silk weavers" referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner are evidently persons usually employed in weaving *Chiralu* or *Rarikalu* (female cloths and bodices) with silk borders. I do not, however, think that it is a fact that the "silk weavers" are mostly "Muhammadans of a very poor class." I believe that the majority of the cooly "silk weavers" are Hindus of the weaver (Salé) caste.

3. With reference to the Sanitary Commissioner's remark that no effort has been made to reach the "silk weavers", I beg to suggest that his attention may be invited to paragraph 4 of my letter, Dis. No. 1868, dated 9th November 1896, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Collector's endorsement, dated 10th idem, printed in Board's Proceedings, (Revenue Settlement, &c.), dated 30th November 1896, No. 372, which I find has been communicated to him, and from which it will be seen that the question, how best to relieve the "silk weavers", was carefully considered by us at two meetings at which most of the leading silk weaver merchants of Adóni were present, and that it was eventually decided that such of the silk weavers as were really in distress from want of employment could if they chose find relief by weaving *Pachadams* (bed sheets) and *Panchas* (plain male cloths) under our scheme. The Board and Government, who have had the facts of the case connected with these "silk weavers" duly represented to them, have apparently been satisfied with the reasons given for excluding the manufacture of *Chiralu* from our operations. I beg to add that most of the weavers of *Panchas* and *Pachadams* on our rolls are persons who were usually employed in "silk weaving" and the greater number of them are Muhammadans whose females observe *gosha*. Further, all carpet weavers are Muhammadans, whose females are *gosha*, and they have largely availed themselves of our relief. In respect of each kind of cloth, we have allowed at least as many women as men in calculating the tasks, and the *gosha* women of the Muhammadan weavers on our rolls thus find employment in carrying on the subsidiary processes connected with weaving. In some cases the weavers who have taken advances earn cooly by some other work, leaving the weaving on Government account to be done by their *gosha* females.

4. It may, however, be argued from the fact that while, according to the census taken by us in the beginning of our operations regarding weavers of the cooly class, there were 1,819 *Chira* looms worked by such weavers, there are at present only 175 *Pancha* and *Pachadam* looms which find work by means of State relief, that the majority of such silk weavers have not been reached by our system of relief. It is no doubt a fact that the majority have not yet availed themselves of our relief, but this seems to be rather due to the fact that at present these weavers find sufficient and better paying employment at *Chira* looms at the hands of their usual employers, than to any unsuitability of the kind of employment offered by us. That this is probably the case is also borne out by the accompanying statement embodying the results of the house-to-house inspection made by both of us on the morning of the 5th instant, of the eastern portion of the town which is largely inhabited by "silk

weavers." In the 19 houses inspected by us, there were 49 *Chira* looms actually at work, out of the 53 which were found in them, besides 4 looms working at the weaving of *Panchas*, *Pachadams* and carpets, these two latter being under State relief. Of the 49 looms, 2 were employed in turning out superior female cloths with large silk borders. Thus, so far as our inspections go, it cannot be said that the demand for "silk cloths" has almost ceased. I also made inquiries of four large employers of "silk weavers", and learnt from their own mouths that, out of 87 "silk" looms owned by them, 56 are now at work. They further told me that at least 50 per cent. of the looms in question in the town are now employed.

5. Still it must be admitted that there is a considerable number of silk weavers at present thrown out of their usual employment. My inquiries of weaver merchants go to show that some of these live by hawking betel-nut, tobacco, chillies, vegetables, condiments, and the like in surrounding villages (we noticed a case of this kind on the evening of the 5th instant in one of the families mentioned in a list furnished by the Sanitary Commissioner of silk weavers in distress), some others as servants in the houses of merchants who, on account of the increased activity in grain trade, have found it necessary to employ more servants, some again who had been temporary settlers in this town and living by silk-weaving for cooly in prosperous times, left it as soon as distress began to show itself here, and lastly, a small number seem to have gone to relief works. It should also be borne in mind that the wage of a cooly silk weaver is ordinarily much better than the cooly labourer, and when prices are about the normal level, it allows him a sufficient margin to indulge in meat, drink, good clothing and the like, and these people by now stinting themselves of these luxuries, manage to make their earnings go further towards keeping body and soul together.

6. The condition of the "silk weavers" was, as you know, fast going from bad to worse, owing to the rapid rise in prices when we resolved upon giving them relief. But about ten days after we started the scheme, rains fell and prices fell rapidly, and although the prices after some days after the rains began to rise again, they did not go up to anything like the level which they had reached in the middle of November last, and they have been of late more or less steady. This must have stimulated the demand for cloths and that is one of the reasons why, as I believe, the number of *Chira* looms at work now is greater than it was when we took the census in the beginning of November. The fact that the marriage season has commenced also accounts to some extent for the demand being kept up. At the same time, I find cause for anxiety in that the prices are beginning to show an upward tendency, and having regard to the poor prospects we have before us, and the widespread distress that prevails in the Bombay Presidency and Northern India, we must be prepared for increase of distress among the local weavers.

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, we both visited the houses of the persons named in the list kindly furnished by him, and the results thereof shown in the accompanying statement. It will be observed that there was hardly any case out of them in which the families concerned were in distress for want of employment at silk looms and in which it could be said that our system of relief had failed to reach the persons concerned. Except in two cases (No. 1, Alli Sahib, and No. 6, Dolla Mohidin Sahib), none of these families had been working at silk looms. The Alli Sahib referred to came to our relief office and took advance for two *Pancha* looms on the very day myself and the Sanitary Commissioner visited his house. He has since taken advance for a third loom. He had not applied earlier, evidently because he had some employment for the silk looms in his house till now. In the other case (Mohidin Sahib), this is too old a man to weave, and his son who was working the only loom in the house now finds employment in hawking betel-nut, and gets 2 to 2½ seers of cholam a day. We found that some relief could be afforded by giving reeling work to the *gosha* women in some of the houses.

8. The one family the members of which were found in a serious state of exhaustion is that of Zaimodien, of whose history yourself and the Sanitary Commissioner are now fully aware. He is, as you remarked, a "ne'er-do-well" man.

9. As to paragraph 3 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, the objection to accept our special relief on the score of the cost of altering the *Chira* reeds and healds (or heddles) for weaving *Panchas* or *Pachadams* was raised to my knowledge only by Alli Sahib. But this man, as stated above, has since taken advance for three *Pancha* looms, agreeing to alter his present silk looms at his own cost. The sum of Rs. 750 shown in the Commissioner's letter represents the cost of a new set of reeds and heddles for 500 looms at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 for each loom. But the cost of altering a set of reeds, &c., now in use for *Chiras* will be about As. 14 per loom only. I mentioned As. 5 to the Commissioner as the probable maximum increase in the number of looms to which our operations may be extended. It does not, however, follow that every new applicant should be thus provided. It is better to leave them, as a rule, to find the money themselves for this purpose, as they have been doing hitherto. To meet rare cases of weavers who cannot afford the expenditure of a few annas, reeds and heddles purchased at Government cost may be given. For this purpose, I request sanction for the purchase of 50 sets of reeds and heddles for *Panchas* and as many for *Pachadams*. I may mention in this connection that during my inquiries at Kosgi, Yemmiganuru, Nandavaram and Nagaldinna, no difficulty of this kind was raised by any of the weavers in those places.

10. As to the unfitness of "silk weavers" to do work on roads, there are only about a dozen weavers of any kind on the municipal road relief work.

11. With regard to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, arrangements will soon be made for opening a kitchen in the locality where the largest number of poor Muhammadan families reside. At the same time, I must say that Muhammadans live all over the town, so that a single locality which can suitably serve the majority of the people of that class standing in need of relief (*sic*).

12. I shall also have a list drawn up of *gosha* women eligible for relief under sections 134 to 136.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

House Number.	Number of looms existing.	Number at work.	Remarks.
A 1051-M	4	4	
1039-M	3	1	Husband and son gone to road work.
1037-M	2	2	One new loom set up to weave cloth for family use.
1047-II	2	2	
1027 (a) II	3	2	Third being worked for Government by a boy.
(b) II	3	3	
1033-II	1	1	
1029-M	2	2	Worked by a cooly.
1030 ..	1	1	Also two carpet looms.
1009 ..	4	4	
1010 ..	2	2	
1011-II	3	2	Has taken advance for one <i>Pancha</i> loom from Government but returned it. Is now working two <i>Chira</i> ; loom is also working.
957-II	3	3	
958-II	7	7	
959 ..	2	2	Superior cloths woven at these looms. Besides these one <i>Pancha</i> loom is also working.
893 ..	2	2	
894 ..	3	3	
918 ..	4	4	
Total ..	53	49	

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

NOTES of inspections of the houses of "silk weavers" referred to in the Sanitary Commissioner's note.

1. A-1051, *Alli Sahib*, has taken advances of materials for three *Pancha* looms. *Chira* looms have been working in his house at the time of inspections on the morning of the 5th instant.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 19TH JAN. 1897, No. 39.

2. B-644, *Odalak Razak Sahib*, is too old to weave; children too young; wife can reel cotton and silk. May be given this work.

3. A-1250, *Hussain Sahib*, too old to weave; sons in Government and private employ, who will maintain him.

4. B-317, *Russul Sahib*, absent. The children look poor. May be sent to kitchen.

5. A-976, *Goshy Fakreddin*, too old to weave; wife blind and cannot reel silk or cotton; she is not gosha; will not go to kitchen.

6. B-960-931, *Mhala Mohadin Sahib*; husband and wife too old to weave. Son fit to weave, earns 2 to 2½ seers of cholam by hawking betel leaf and nuts in villages.

7. A-925, *Fassin Sahib*, too old to weave. His sons cannot do it; one is weaving with Patcha Sahib. Women gosha. May be given reeling work.

8. B-617, *Odalak Hassin Ahamed*, was weaving till two months ago; cannot weave now. Son is a servant in a grain shop; will not take weaving work.

9. B-805, *Zymuddin*; a lazy man who will not work. Refused to take advances for weaving.

Endorsement by the Collector of Bellary, dated 12th January 1897, Ref. on C. No. 114.

Copy, with copy of Sanitary Commissioner's letter, submitted for the information of the Board of Revenue. The Deputy Collector's letter is based on inquiries made by him and myself jointly.

2. The Deputy Collector be authorized to purchase 25 sets of reeds and heddles to be kept in reserve and issued only to really destitute silk weavers. There are no other points in his letter calling for orders.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Adoni, 2nd January 1897.

I have the honour to state that having made careful inquiries in this town, I find that whilst the measures of relief accorded to "carpet weavers" would seem to suffice, no effort has been made to reach the "silk weavers". These persons are mostly Muhammadans of a very poor class. Their women, who are usually "gosha", earn their living by the process of reeling silk. For the last five months there has been a falling off of demand for silk cloths, but during the last two months it may be said to have almost ceased. Under these circumstances, it follows that this class of persons has suffered considerably.

2. Having called the attention of the Deputy Collector to the subject, he accompanied me during a house-to-house inspection. It is probable that over 400 looms were formerly engaged on this work. Correct statistics as to the number of persons employed are, however, I understand, not available, and I do not pretend to do more than draw your attention to the indubitable fact that much suffering from want of sufficient nourishment actually exists at the present time in the midst of this class. In the case of one family visited, the members were found in a serious state of exhaustion.

3. The Deputy Collector's attention had not failed to be arrested by the condition of this class; but, as he explained to me, there exist several difficulties to be overcome, not the least of which is that it would be unsuitable to weave silk cloths at Government risk. Our consultation with the silk weavers showed, however, that they would be willing to undertake cotton weaving, provided they were enabled to change their looms so as to cope with this special work. I may here state that many of the men are old and feeble, and unfit for work on roads. A few of the younger members of families have proceeded there for work, and certain of the females who are not gosha have also done so. But my inspection of the latter on the works showed that they are physically unfit to undertake the breaking stone in conjunction with a six miles tramp to and from the town of Adoni. They had been accustomed to no harder work formerly than reeling silk—probably one of the lightest forms of labour possible. If it were possible to so transform the looms that cotton cloths could be woven on them, it would result that in attending the various preliminaries of weaving, not only the men but the gosha women would earn their living. Under these circumstances, I would advise you to obtain sanction, as a special case, for the alteration of the looms, the cost of which the Deputy Collector roughly estimates at Rupees 750. The altered portions of the looms might remain Government property, and at the end of the period of scarcity might be sold and the funds be credited to Government.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (REV. SETT., L. RDS. AND AGRI.), 19TH JAN. 1897, No. 39. 5

4. There are doubtless also a considerable number of Muhammadan families that retain their women gosha who require aid of the nature that should be given by a "kitchen," but who, in view of the strong "prejudices" common to this class, would not proceed so far from their own quarters of the town as attending the existing kitchen would involve. Much relief would be secured by starting therefore in the neighbourhood of the strictly Muhammadan quarter of the town a kitchen conducted on gosha principles.

5. Any aid given to these persons should be, in my opinion, arranged for as an urgent matter.

RESOLUTION—dated 19th January 1897, No. 39.

Recorded.

2. Paragraph 2 of the Collector's endorsement is not quite clear, but if he intends to purchase 25 sets of reeds, &c., for issue to weavers on loan, the proposal is approved.

3. It should be explained under what circumstances advances for more than one loom were granted to Alli Sahib, as the advances should be given only to the workers of the looms, and this man appears to own more looms than he can work.

4. If it be found advisable to extend relief to gosha women, the provisions of section 135 of the code should be observed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

Erd. C. M. Thumbarawmy.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

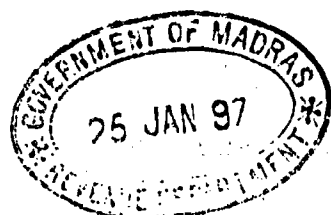
Board of Revenue.

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records
and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 23rd.

Proceedings, 19th Jan. 1897, No. 39.



Weavers at Adóni.—Recording, with remarks,
report on the condition of gosha and silk —.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. 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.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.