Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 53

DATED 27th January 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Explaining to the Board of Revenue the nature of the arrangements ordered to be made in G.O. No. 755, dated 26th December 1896, for the disposal of papers relating to — by the Land Revenue Commissioner

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.

GOVT MADRAS
7 JAN 97
REV DEPT

From

The Board of Revenue

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

Madras

No. 143 Mis

Dated 6th January 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Replying to the Government order in the matter of the disposal of papers relating to famine during the Famine Commissioner's absence on tour

To Orders

HD 8/1/97

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

BACK PAPERS.

G O.	No.	Department.	Date.
			0

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS.

316

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 6th January 1897.

No. 143 Miscellaneous.

READ G. O. Revenue, No. 755 P. dated 26th December 1896

Resolution

A report from the full Board on the disposal of Famine papers has already been Submitted in the Land Revenue Department in reference to the order read above, which has been issued to avoid unnecessary delay in dealing with Such papers. The immediate Cause of the order was apparently the fact that, for a brief period about the end of November last, Such papers took about 11 days on the average between receipt in the Board's office and the issue of Proceedings.

This

This delay was brought about by stress of weather, and was often greatly exceeded during 1891-92 when the prompt ~~disposal~~ despatch of all famine business received the Commendation of both the Madras and the Supreme Government. In 1891-92, the papers dealt with in the 'Press' Proceedings of the Board for the two districts of Bellary and Kurnool were issued on the average in proceedings in 6½ and 6 days respectively after receipt in the Board's office. During the Current year, during November and December, the average number of days taken has been only 4 days, including 14 papers disposed of in Proceedings dated between 30th November and 4th December, which had an average pendency of 10 days owing to the Cause above noted.

2. The Board in this Department has made all possible arrangements to expedite the despatch of business. Fortnightly reports require the order of the Commissioner, but the Board, if Government desires, will direct Collectors to Send a copy of the Fortnightly reports direct to Government. If there are any Stress papers, which Government desires to be treated with Special urgency, on receive a list of the Same, they will be dealt with in the Land ~~Records~~ Revenue Department during the absence of the Commissioner on tour.

(True Extract)

D. J. Smiddy
Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department.

the R

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

SECY. GOVT MADRAS
17 JAN 97
REVENUE

From The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, Madras.

Order No. 41 Misc.

Dated 6th January 1897.

Received 7th "

Registered 8th "

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SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government the Board's opinion on the Government order directing that certain papers relating to famine should be disposed of by the Land Revenue Commissioners.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

8,000
12-7-96

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

10

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

No. 41 Misc., dated 6th January 1897.

Full Board

Read Government Order Revenue Department, No. 755 Press, dated 26th December 1896.

Resolution

In the order, read above, the Government indicates certain arrangements which it desires to have carried out with the object of expediting the disposal of famine business. The Orders of Government have been discussed at a meeting of a Full Board, consisting of the two Land Revenue Commissioners and the Settlement Commissioner, who is Ex-Officio Famine Commissioner, and it has been resolved to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. The Government directs that "famine questions and papers which do not need the opinion of the Famine Commissioner or which need it but do not admit of being forwarded for his remarks", should be disposed of by the Land Revenue Commissioners, and it is promised that a similar arrangement was made in 1891-92. The Board would in the first place respectfully submit that no arrangement, such as that now proposed, was made in 1891-92, or indeed in any year in which the Settlement Commissioner was called upon to assume the control of operations for the relief of distress. The arrangement approved in 1891-92 was that the Land Revenue Commissioners

should take upon their shoulders all the Settlement Member's work other than "famine", in order that the Commissioner entrusted with the famine work should be enabled to devote the whole of his time to that subject alone. The Land Revenue Commissioners did not offer to take, and as a matter of fact did not take, any portion of the "famine" business under their control. The facts are clearly stated in the Board's Proceedings approved in Government Order No.1335, dated 24th December 1891.

3. The question of transferring to the Land Revenue Commissioners the ordinary and non-famine work of the Settlement Commissioner is not raised in the Government Order now under consideration, and as the Settlement Commissioner himself is of opinion that there is no immediate necessity for any such transfer of work, the Board will not discuss the matter any further. But the Board resolves to submit to Government its opinion as to the contemplated division of the "famine" work.

4. The Board is very strongly of opinion that the whole of the work connected with the famine should pass under the eye of the Famine Commissioner, and that no step should be taken which would tend in any manner to attenuate the responsibility which must of necessity be centred in his hands. The Government directs that emergent questions or those "which do not need the Famine Commissioner's opinion" should be disposed of by the Land Revenue Commissioners who should then send copies of their orders to Government and to the Famine Commissioner at the same time. In the opinion of the Board no "Famine" question, other than one of the merest routine "can be said to be one with regard to which the opinion of the Famine Commissioner is not needed". To furnish Government with the views of the Land Revenue Commissioners, which it may be noted cannot be based upon the results of local inspection, would possibly complicate the final disposal of any matter, instead of facilitating it, for the ~~time~~ time already adopted by the Famine Commissioner in dealing with such cases would not be known, and a second proceedings might have to be submitted to Government when the papers reached the officer really responsible for their disposal. Such divided control might thus lead to serious public inconvenience and to a great increase of scriptory work.

5. With regard to cases of such an emergent nature that the views of the Famine Commissioner cannot be waited for, the Board submits that during the absence of one Member on tour, whether he be a Land Revenue Member or one of the other Commissioners, the orders of another Member are invariably taken on any question which cannot at the time be submitted to the Member in charge. This principle is followed in regard to "famine" questions, in the same way as others, and there is no probability of any very emergent "famine" business being long kept back from Government by reason of the absence of the Famine Commissioner on tour.

(True Extract)

Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Md.R.H.

C. Sec. III & 101/97.

NOTE FOR THE SECRETARY.

(a) with reference to his queries on the heads of the note on C nos III & 101 of 1897

This file has not yet been sent to H. E, as the Hon. Mr. Grose has asked for an explanation of a passage in the note.

2. In a somewhat similar case H.E. asked "what is the answer to Mrs. Grose's question." Hence pending orders from the Secretary, it was deemed advisable to delay the circulation of the current.

20.1.97

I do not understand H. E. what he means is I think that the matter is to be explained to the V.C. The order is to explain the matter to the V.C.

27.1.97.

27.1.97.

Current. Nos III. & 101.

For orders.

What the Board was asked to do they say in para 5 they do do. If so the delays in the submission of papers are very curious; but if the Board really acts as therein set out it would meet all that Government wants. This with the submission of the fortnightly narratives directed by the Collector will put Government in possession of much it should know far earlier than it gets to know it at present. It is a significant fact that the Collector of Bellary wants to correspond direct with Government.

The crux of the matter is that the Board do not want to attenuate the responsibility of the Famine Commissioner but if he can say his say, if he does not approve (as the orders allow him) it does not appear how his responsibility can be attenuated. It is one of the strongest arguments for the joint and several constitutions of the Board that it can be looked to and in its corporate capacity its individual members. If there is any question of "line" in the matter the Secretary can very easily point out what has already been done when the Famine Code does not provide for the case. If the other Commissioners approve

Hon'ble Mr. Gore C.I.E.
Hon'ble Mr. Bliss C.I.E.
H.E. The Governor.

Read 7/1

57

Miscellaneous.

G.O 53 d/ 27th January 1897.

In G.O no 755 dated 26-12-96 the Govt requested the concurrence of Land Rev Comrs to dispose of famine papers in two classes of cases:—

(1) Papers relating to subjects on which the famine comrs. had already expressed their opinions;

(2) Urgent papers on which orders should be passed at once, such as applications for funds.

2. From para 5 of the Proc of the Board on the land Rev side, it appears that the usual practice is to deal with urgent papers as above indicated. If the Board deals with the papers on lines of their opinion already expressed & if the class of papers also, it will meet all the Govt requirements of Govt.

3. Orders should be issued by the famine comrs. that the fortnightly reports should be submitted by collectors in duplicate one to the Boards Office as at present and the other direct to Govt. As a rule, the Govt will not pass orders thereon till the comrs Proc are

Comrs. for III. & IV.
For orders.

What the Board was asked to do they say in para 5 they do do. If so the delays in the submission of papers are very curious; but if the Board really acts as therein set out it would meet all that Government wants. This with the submission of the fortnightly narratives directed by the Collector will put Government in possession of much it should know far earlier than it gets to know it at present. It is a significant fact that the Collector of Bellary wants to correspond direct with Government.

The crux of the matter is that the Board do not want to attenuate the responsibility of the Famine Commissioner but if he can say his say, if he does not approve (as the orders allow him) it does not appear how his responsibility can be attenuated. It is one of the strongest arguments for the joint and several constitutions of the Board that it can be looked to aid in its corporate capacity its individual members. If there is any question of "line" in the matter the Secretary can very easily point out what has already been done when the Famine Code does not provide for the case. If the other Commissioners approve

of the line already taken they can accordingly dispose of the papers. If they do not then alone will a second proceedings be needed. In fact many of the papers could be sent on to Government without going to a member at all., e.g. application for Funds &c. What the Board is asked to do is to pass the Secretary's work in two cases

(1) when papers do not need the Famine Commissioners opinion e.g. when he has expressed it two or three times already.

(2) when the matter is such it cannot wait for it, e.g. application for Funds.

11/1/97.

are received.

11/1/97.

To the Board of Rev (L.O.)
" (Settlement) Dtd. 12.2.97

Dist. Transorders

Explain here. As per 5 above, it is in accordance with the usual practice of this Board. The Particular Reports call, as the Comm^r proposes, be forwarded to Govt direct; but they shd also be forwarded thro Comm^r in the procedure to, as a general rule, no case will now be passed on unless his proceedings are received.

JG

BD
14/1/97

K.H
22.1.97

Spare.
Why has this not been sent to the Govt. Mail?

Replied to on a separate slip.
11/1/97

KS
21/1/97

Dispatch 11/1/97.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
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G.O., No. 53, 27th January 1897.

JANUARY.

1

Famine.

Explaining to the Board of Revenue the nature of the arrangements ordered to be made in G.O., No. 755, dated 26th December 1896, for the disposal of papers relating to — by the Land Revenue Commissioners.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 41, dated 6th January 1897:—

Read—G.O., No. 755, Revenue, dated 26th December 1896.

Resolution—Mis. No. 41, dated 6th January 1897.

In the order read above the Government indicates certain arrangements which it desires to have carried out with the object of expediting the disposal of famine business. The orders of Government have been discussed at a meeting of a full Board, consisting of the two Land Revenue Commissioners and the Settlement Commissioner, who is *Ex-officio* Famine Commissioner, and it has been resolved to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. The Government directs that "famine questions and papers which do not need the opinion of the Famine Commissioner or which need it but do not admit of being forwarded for his remarks," should be disposed of by the Land Revenue Commissioners, and it is premised that a similar arrangement was made in 1891–92. The Board would, in the first place, respectfully submit that no arrangement, such as that now proposed, was made in 1891–92, or indeed in any year in which the Settlement Commissioner was called upon to assume the control of operations for the relief of distress. The arrangement approved in 1891–92 was that the Land Revenue Commissioners should take upon their shoulders all the Settlement Member's work *other than* "*famine*," in order that the Commissioner entrusted with the famine work should be enabled to devote the whole of his time to that subject alone. The Land Revenue Commissioners did not offer to take, and as a matter of fact did not take, any portion of the "famine" business under their control. The facts are clearly stated in the Board's Proceedings approved in G.O., No. 1225, dated 24th December 1891.

3. The question of transferring to the Land Revenue Commissioners the ordinary and *non-famine* work of the Settlement Commissioner is not raised in the Government Order now under consideration, and as the Settlement Commissioner himself is of opinion that there is no immediate necessity for any such transfer of work, the Board will not discuss the matter any further. But the Board resolves to submit to Government its opinion as to the contemplated division of the "famine" work.

4. The Board is very strongly of opinion that the whole of the work connected with the famine should pass under the eye of the Famine Commissioner, and that no step should be taken which would tend in any manner to attenuate the responsibility which must of necessity be centred in his hands. The Government directs that emergent questions or those "which do not need the Famine Commissioner's opinion" should be disposed of by the Land Revenue Commissioners who should then send copies of their orders to Government and to the Famine Commissioner at the same time. In the opinion of the Board no "famine" question, other than one of the merest routine can be said to be one with regard to which the opinion of the Famine Commissioner is not needed. To furnish Government with the views of the Land Revenue

Commissioners, which it may be noted cannot be based upon the results of local inspection, would possibly complicate the final disposal of any matter, instead of facilitating it, for the line already adopted by the Famine Commissioner in dealing with such cases would not be known, and a second proceedings might have to be submitted to Government when the papers reached the officer really responsible for their disposal. Such divided control might thus lead to serious public inconvenience and to a great increase of scriptory work.

5. With regard to cases of such an emergent nature that the views of the Famine Commissioner cannot be waited for, the Board submits that during the absence of one member on tour, whether he be a Land Revenue Member or one of the other Commissioners, the orders of another Member are invariably taken on any question which cannot at the time be submitted to the Member in charge. This principle is followed in regard to "famine" questions, in the same way as others, and there is no probability of any very emergent "famine" business being long kept back from Government by reason of the absence of the Famine Commissioner on tour.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 6th January 1897, Mis. No. 143:—

Read—G.O., No. 755, Revenue, dated 26th December 1896.

Resolution—dated 6th January 1897, Mis. No. 143.

A report from the full Board on the disposal of famine papers has already been submitted in the Land Revenue Department in reference to the order read above, which has been issued to avoid unnecessary delay in dealing with such papers. The immediate cause of the order was apparently the fact that, for a brief period about the end of November last, such papers took about eleven days on the average between receipt in the Board's office and the issue of Proceedings. This delay was brought about by stress of weather, and was often greatly exceeded during 1891–92 when the prompt despatch of all famine business received the commendation of both the Madras and the Supreme Government. In 1891–92, the papers dealt with in the "Press" Proceedings of the Board for the two districts of Bellary and Kurnool were issued on the average in proceedings in $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 days, respectively, after receipt in the Board's office. During the current year, during November and December, the average number of days taken has been only four days, including 14 papers disposed of in Proceedings, dated between 30th November and 4th December, which had an average pendency of ten days owing to the cause above noted.

2. The Board in this department has made all possible arrangements to expedite the despatch of business. Fortnightly reports require the order of the Commissioner, but the Board, if Government desires, will direct Collectors to send a copy of the fortnightly reports direct to Government. If there are any other papers, which Government desires to be treated with special urgency, on receiving a list of the same, they will be dealt with in the Land Revenue Department during the absence of the Commissioner on tour.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 53, Revenue, dated 27th January 1897.

Miscellaneous.

In G.O., No. 755, dated 26th December 1896, the Government requested the Commissioners of Land Revenue to dispose of two classes of famine papers:—

(1) Papers relating to subjects on which the Famine Commissioner had already expressed his opinion;
(2) Urgent papers on which orders should be passed at once, such as applications for funds.

2. From paragraph 5 of the Proceedings of the Board on the Land Revenue side, it appears that the usual practice is to deal with urgent papers as above indicated. If the Board deals with the other class of papers also, on the lines of the opinion already expressed, as it may be, in some other connection by the Famine Commissioner, it will meet all the requirements of Government.

3. Orders should be issued by the Famine Commissioner that the fortnightly reports should be submitted by Collectors in duplicate, one to the Board's office as at present and the other direct to Government. As a rule, the Government will not pass orders thereon till the Commissioner's Proceedings are received.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Renenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

Exd. Md. Philvan.

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