Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 563

DATED 29th Jany 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reading BSP. informing the Collr. of Bellary that steps to relief works need not be taken in the circumstances reported but calculated according to the price of rice

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. 576

Mis No. 563 of 29th January 1897.

29/1

The Hon. Mr. Fuce C.S.I.
H.E. the Governor

29/1

Order ~~Mis No. 374 of 21 January 1897~~ 26/1/97 A.S.H. 27.1.97

Recorded.

From

The Board of Revenue

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

No. 24

Dated 11th January 1897.

Received 19th

Registered 20th

Enclosures

Spare copies

To the Board (Sett.) 5.2.97

note

The grain, on the price of which the wages to be paid to relief workers is based, is defined (S. 12 of the Famine Code) as "grain of the description in ordinary use at the time of payment". The expression 'in ordinary use' must be understood as "use for food". Hence if ragi is not an article of food in Bellary, it should not be taken for calculating the famine wage.

KD
20.1.97

SUBJECT.

Wages.

Informing the Collector of Bellary that — the relief workers need not, in the circumstances reported, be calculated according to the price of ragi.

C. 25/1/97
R. 28/1/97

BACK PAPERS.

G O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—again the following Official Memorandum of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 10th December 1896, No. 6409:—

The Collector of Bellary is requested to report whether, in calculating the wages allowed to relief-workers, the price of ragi or cholum is being taken as the standard. From the last weekly season report it appears that, wherever sold, ragi is the cheaper grain, and wages should therefore be regulated by the price thereof.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 15th December 1896, Mis. No. 6570:—

Read—the following letter from R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 12th December 1896, Dis. No. 4623:—

In reply to Board's Memorandum, No. 6409, dated 10th December 1896, I have the honour to report that, though ragi is the cheaper grain, it is nowhere in the district, the staple food-grain except perhaps in the southern parts of Rayadrug. Wages are therefore calculated according to the price of cholum. Copy of my Circular No. 4230, dated 20th November 1896, on the subject is enclosed for Board's information.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of the Collector of Bellary, dated 20th November 1896, Dis. No. 4230.

Read Ref. on Cur. No. 44 of 1896, dated 19th November 1896, from Divisional officer, Adóni, requesting to be informed whether the rates of wages for relief-workers are to be based on the average price for white and yellow cholum or on that of yellow cholum only.

Circular No. 4230, dated 20th November 1896.

Under section 121, the wage is to be calculated according to grain of medium quality and of the description in ordinary use at the time of payment. If ragi is cheaper than cholum, and is eaten by the people, it may be taken. Otherwise the average of white and yellow cholum where both are available, should be taken. If only one kind of cholum, viz., either white or yellow is available, the price of that kind alone should be considered.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. S. LLOYD,
for Collector.

To all Tahsildars.
" Divisional officers.
Copy to the Executive Engineer.
" to the District Board Engineer.

Resolution—dated 15th December 1896, Mis. No. 6570.

Recorded with the remark that, when cholum is taken as the grain for regulating wages on relief-works, the price of the cheaper sort, if available, should be taken and not the average as stated by the Collector. If ragi is freely available and is cheaper than cholum, the wages should be calculated on ragi.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.

READ—also the following letter from J. F. SOMERS-EVE, Esq., Executive Engineer, Bellary Division, to the Collector of Bellary, dated Adóni, 4th January 1897, No. 55 C., and endorsement thereon by the Collector, dated 4th January 1897 :—

I have the honour to inform you that I inspected the Bellary-Moka relief work two days ago. The coolies complained that they were paid at ragi rates which food they could not eat. I examined numerous bundles of the prepared food that the coolies had with them for their midday meal. In *no* case did I find ragi in use, but as a rule yellow cholum, and in some cases white. The ration appeared small and the coolies stated that they were only able to buy three-fourths of their proper supply. As one intelligent native expressed it, this system is leading to the "slow process of starvation by degrees". Ragi is not the staple food of these people and I do not think wages should be fixed on its price.

Endorsement by the Collector of Bellary, Ref. on C. No. 40, dated 4th January 1897.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue for orders.

Under the rules as they stand, wages have to be calculated in the cheapest grain (in this case ragi) which happens to be freely available in this locality. Ragi is available in Bellary taluk, but it is an undoubted fact that it is not the grain which the relief-workers are accustomed to eat. Mr. Somers-Eve's letter shows that the workers are actually living on reduced rations because they are not accustomed to eat ragi.

It is surely not the intention of the Famine Code that relief-workers should be compelled to eat a grain which is not the staple food of the district and which they prefer not to eat and it seems to me a very mistaken policy to allow them to go on from day to day buying and eating a reduced ration of cholum which is not sufficient in quantity to keep them strong and well. This difficulty does not occur in the three other famine taluks as ragi is not freely available. I most earnestly urge on the Board the necessity of altering the existing rule and allowing wages to be calculated in the grain which is the staple article of food and not in the grain which happens to be cheapest in the market.

RESOLUTION—dated 11th January 1897, No. 24.

The order to calculate famine wages on ragi should not be enforced when the Collector is satisfied that this grain is not in ordinary use amongst the coolies employed on the works. The enforcement of the ragi standard might, as shown by the Executive Engineer and the Collector, lead to a process of slow starvation amongst the coolies. There is, also, another reason for not pressing the ragi standard, viz., that the experience of our own jails has shown that ragi is a very difficult grain to prepare for food, and, if the workers have not the habit of preparing it, they are likely to reduce it insufficiently in grinding. In fact it is very possible that, in a cholum tract, the necessary apparatus for husking and grinding ragi may not be forthcoming. The preparation of

ragi flour for food is a slow and laborious process on which jail labour is much employed. If the particles of husk are not properly removed, a ragi diet is certain to cause intestinal irritation and other troubles.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. V. Srinivasiar
Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.
Copy to Collectors of other affected districts.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Printed January 16th.

Proceedings, 11th Jan. 1897, *No.* 24.

Wages.—Informing the Collector of Bellary that — to relief workers need not, in the circumstances reported, be calculated according to the price of ragi.

When given for copying ____
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When signed ____
} 189 .

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

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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