

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 628

DATED 26th July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Weavers' Relief Schemes.

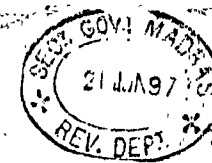
Recording Board's Prog. commg., with
remarks, results of examination by
Messrs Binning & Co of samples of cloths in
under —

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 DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Printed June th.

The Hon. Secy to the Govt.

Proceedings, 3rd June 1897, No. 415.

106288/26 July 1897
A. 2. (P. 1897)
17/11/97
Recorded
25

JUNE.

The Secy to the Govt.
Despatch
30/12

Rs
12-7-97

Weavers' relief schemes.—Communicating, with remarks, results of examination by Messrs Binny & Co. of samples of cloths woven under —.

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

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 20th April 1897, Mis. No. 2859:—

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 6th April 1897, No. S.M.:—

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2457 M. of the 1st instant regarding wastage of material in connection with the projected weaving operations for famine relief.

2. The proposition placed before us is somewhat difficult, as we must assume that a great variety of cloths varying in texture will be manufactured.

3. On careful consideration and bearing in mind the sizing materials used by hand-loom weavers, we would recommend that the amount of size that is put on the yarn before manufacture should be taken as representing the wastage, and that no other allowance should be made.

4. Our reason for making this suggestion is that there is practically no unseen loss in the yarns used, and if any weaver cannot produce the equivalent weight in cloth of what he has received in yarn, the supervising officer, if the weaver considers he has a grievance, can call on him to produce the "waste" yarn.

5. If the waste yarn and the cloth produced together do not represent the weight of yarn supplied the weaver, there has obviously been a misappropriation of yarn.

6. We are of opinion that though the cloth may be found to exceed the weight of yarn supplied, the materials the up-country weavers use for sizing will not make a difference unduly in their favour.

7. If the Board will send us samples of cloth we shall be happy to test them and advise the quantity of size we find.

8. Assuming no size were used, an allowance of 4 per cent. for wastage would, we think, be ample, but the course we have indicated in paragraph 3 is the one we would recommend: as the measures are temporary, it would be difficult to lay down rules that would apply to each kind of cloth.

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 7th April 1897, No. S.M.:—

In continuation of our letter of yesterday, perhaps we should have mentioned that any Famine officer can easily ascertain the amount of conjee in a piece of cloth by weighing it, washing it, and after drying, again carefully weighing it, the difference in the two weighments will give the quantity of conjee, which in hand-made cloth we do not think should exceed 4—5 per cent.

We could speak with more decision on this question of percentage of conjee if the Board sent us a few representative patterns of cloth from various districts, say each piece to be not less than one yard long.

Machine-made cloth can be adulterated to the extent of an addition of over 100 per cent. to the weight; this is not of course possible with hand looms in India, but we should not like to say that hand-loom weavers could not put more than 5 per cent. of conjee in cloth until we had actually made tests.

Resolution—dated 20th April 1897, Mis. No. 2859.

The Board is obliged to Messrs. Binny & Co. for the information kindly furnished by them.

2. The Collectors of Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Anantapur will be requested to forward to Messrs. Binny & Co. samples of the various cloths woven under the weavers' relief schemes in operation in their districts, in order that the quantity of conjee used and the wastage of yarn in weaving may be ascertained. It must be noted that each pattern should be not less than one yard long. The quantity of yarn and other materials issued for the manufacture of each cloth should also be stated.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collectors of Deccan districts.
„ Messrs. Binny & Co.

READ—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 14th May 1897:—

We have the honour to enclose a tabulated statement showing the results of our examination of samples of cloth sent us by the Collector of Cuddapah and the Acting Deputy Tahsildar of Kurnool.

Samples numbered 1—14 are from Cuddapah, whilst No. 15 is from Kurnool.

You will note that the amount of size (or conjee) varies very considerably.

Our estimate of 4—5 per cent. of size as being a probable amount mentioned in our letters of 6th and 7th ultimo was based on the assumption that only the warp (longitudinal) threads would be sized; we find, however, that in several of the samples of cloth examined, both warp and weft (transverse) threads are sized. It is very unusual to size the weft threads and is of no advantage to the weaver beyond that of gaining weight. It is possible that the entire cloths after weaving have been dipped in a conjee mixture which would account for the appearance of size on both warp and weft, but this would be an aggravated fraud and, if detected, dealt with accordingly.

The smallest quantity of size on any of the samples is 5.4 per cent. (No. 9), and in this case the weaver has brought about 5 per cent. more cloth than yarn, the shortage being very small. This is the result we should expect from hand-weaving. On the other hand in the case of sample No. 1, although there is over 11 per cent. of size, the weight of cloth is less than 1 per cent. in excess of the yarn supplied, so that we may fairly deduce that an abstraction of 10 per cent. of yarn has taken place.

These two cases will illustrate the difficulty in determining any hard and fast rule which will prevent fraud on the part of dishonest weavers, and at the same time not be unduly hard upon those honest weavers who do not put an excessive amount of size on their cloths. As a further illustration of the difficulty we may instance cloths Nos. 1 and 2. The weaver of No. 1 has made cloth weighing slightly more than the yarn supplied, whilst the weaver of No. 2 has made cloth slightly less in weight than the yarn supplied; yet in cloth No. 2 there is 1 per cent. less actual shortage of yarn than in cloth No. 1.

We are of opinion that a wastage allowance in yarn of 4 per cent. is fully ample. The average amount of size on the fifteen samples is a little over 9 per cent., so that on this average—with a wastage allowance of 4 per cent.—a weaver ought to bring cloth equal in weight to the weight of yarn given out, *plus* 5 per cent. Even if this stipulation were made, the weaver who put on say 12 per cent. size could easily cheat, whilst another weaver who only used 5 per cent. size would have a margin of 1 per cent. for wastage and thus might be very hardly treated.

We send herewith the three pieces Nos. 1, 5 and 9 for the Board's examination; No. 1 feels most heavily sized and an expert would at once suspect it, but the Board cannot have experts all over the districts, all they can do is to drop heavily on fraud when detected. No. 9 has been described above; No. 5 represents a heavily sized cloth, but no yarn has been abstracted.

We cannot urge that any alteration in the existing procedure under these circumstances will be successful as it would be impossible for the Board to test any very great quantity of the cloth woven.

It would be possible to provide Famine officers with examining glasses and stipulate to weavers for so many threads to the quarter inch being woven. This would be some check; a specimen glass is sent herewith which may be returned when done with. These glasses can be got at Messrs. P. Orr & Sons who call them "Linen testers."

If we can render the Board any further assistance we shall be very pleased to do so.

ENCLOSURE.

Number.	Description of cloth.	Weight (in tolas).	Weight of yarn as stated by Collector.	Net weight of yarn (in tolas).	Shortage of yarn.	Conjee.
1	5 x 5 cubit turban from bale 35, first lot	67.2	66.6	59.5	PER CENT. 7.1=10.7	PERCENT. 11.4
2	7 x 7 cubit turban from bale 13, first lot	57.6	58.5	52.8	5.7=9.7	8.3
3	6 x 6 cubit turban from bale 1, first lot	102.0	93.0	91.1	1.9=2.0	10.7
4	One four-cloth piece of panchas, 16 cubits, from bale 41, first lot	118.8	111.8	108.7	3.1=2.8	8.5
5	Double edge 6 cubit four-cloth piece panchas from bale 201, fourth lot	127.2	111.8	112.7	0.9=0.8 gain.	11.4
6	5 x 5 (really 6 x 6) cubit turban from bale 162, fourth lot	72.0	66.6	65.2	1.4=2.1	9.4
7	6 x 6 cubit turban from bale 168, fourth lot	50.4	46.5	45.0	1.5=3.2	10.7
8	7 x 7 cubit turban from bale 153, fourth lot	57.6	58.5	52.1	6.4=10.9	9.6
9	Single edge four-cloth piece, 6 cubit panchas, from bale 150, third lot	117.6	111.8	111.5	0.3=0.3	5.4
10	Double edge four-cloth piece, 6 cubit panchas, from bale 150, third lot	117.6	111.8	110.6	1.2=1.1	6.0
11	6 x 6 cubit turban from bale 119, third lot	100.8	93.0	91.8	1.2=1.3	8.9
12	6 x 6 cubit turban from bale 75, second lot	46.8	46.5	42.5	4.0=8.6	9.1
13	7 x 7 cubit turban from bale 66, second lot	60.0	58.5	55.8	2.7=4.6	7.0
14	5 x 5 cubit turban from bale 59, second lot	64.8	66.6	59.2	7.4=11.1	8.6
15	Cloth from Kurnool marked "No. 31 Panchayloo-joodoo"	62.4	58.0	54.6	3.4=5.9	12.5
Average shortage					= 4.9	

READ—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 18th May 1897:—

We have the honour to send herewith results of our examination of cloths received from the Acting Collector of Bellary.

We consider that the shortage of yarn in each of these samples is excessive, particularly in the case of No. 17 (Pachadam).

We would suggest with reference to No. 17 that in this case either there has been a mistake in the particulars sent us, or else something very far wrong; the cloth weighed 101 tolas, whilst according to the statement of particulars, 112 tolas of yarn had been given out; curiously enough the weight as marked on the ticket attached to the cloth is given as 4 seers 17 tolas which we presume would be 113 tolas.

If our translation of the ticket is right, then either there has been some mistake in weighing the cloth or a mis-statement of weight has been placed on the ticket.

Cloth No. 17 is also 2 inches too small in width measuring only 26 inches, whilst particulars supplied give the width 28 inches.

We have now sent you reports on samples of cloth from Cuddapah, Kurnool and Bellary. No samples have yet been received from Anantapur.

ENCLOSURE.

	Total weight.	Weight of yarn stated.	Net weight of yarn.	Shortage.	Conjee.
No. 16 Panchas (Bellary)	TOLAS. 67	68	61.1	6.9 = 10.1%	8.8%
No. 17 Pachadan (Do.)	101	112	90.9	22.1 = 19.7%	10%

RESOLUTION—dated 3rd June 1897, No. 415.

From the experiments kindly made by Messrs. Binny & Co., which have been recorded above, it is clear that a certain amount of yarn is wasted in course of weaving, but that this wastage is more than made up by the quantity of conjee applied. It is considered that a wastage allowance in yarn of 4 per cent. is fully ample, and that as the amount of size applied is *on the average* a little over 9 per cent., a weaver ought to bring cloth equal in weight to the weight of yarn given out *plus* 5 per cent.; but, owing to the numerous varieties, and the large numbers of cloths woven, no change in the existing procedure is recommended, as it will be impossible to check any very great number of cloths. It may be taken that the woven cloth should never weigh less than the yarn advanced, and fines ought to be inflicted wherever deficiencies in weight are noticed. In cases where the cloths are of the correct weight but below the prescribed dimensions, it may be generally assumed that they are over-weighted with conjee and that yarn has been misappropriated. It may also be found that cloths are just up to or only just below the proper weight, but are very highly sized, and here again it is probable that there has been a misappropriation of yarn. Appraisers should be able to note without difficulty any case of excessive sizing. All cases of detected imposition ought to be severely dealt with, but the question is how; for, the question of levying penalties for shortage is not such a simple one as it might seem.

2. No doubt, it is desirable that dishonest weavers should be punished, but it should first be certain that they are dishonest. When this is proved, it would not be sufficient to fine the weaver the value of the yarn-shortage, as he would still have the yarn. It does not seem to be at all an easy matter to determine shortage. Firstly, the weight test is not of much use in places where the yarn issued, and the cloths received are weighed against stones, as has been the case for a long time in Jammalamadugu, and is still the case at Proddatur. The climate of the Deccan is so intensely dry, and high winds prevail so much there, that it is quite possible that the loss of yarn in handling may in some cases be even more than above estimated, or than mill-experience in the damp climate of Madras would expect. No doubt, there is the

fact that some cloths show no shortage, but the hands which handled the yarn were different—one weaver and his assistant may be much less dexterous and delicate of touch than others. If it were not for the conjee added, there must in all cases be shortage, for the processes are multitudinous, and some, such as treading the yarn in conjee-water with the feet, are very rough. In the mere weaving there is a distinct amount of fluff lost in the weaver's pit, and the fastening strings at one end are cut off. It is quite plain, therefore, that the weavers should not be accused of malpractices except on the clearest proof. Where both warp and woof are found to be sized, there is strong ground for suspicion, but even then the inquiry should be strictly judicial, not vindictive. Some cloths are woven with a very open web, and possibly sizing of both warp and woof may be necessary to make the threads keep proper intervals. The Special Deputy Collector for Weaving Operations should report on this. It is most desirable that cloths should be equal, not only in weight but also in dimensions, to the sample; for, when Government comes to sell these cloths, their value, in a wholesale transaction, will be depreciated, if not up to sample. On the other hand, hand-weaving is not so uniform as machine-weaving; it is not certain that all looms are of exactly the same dimensions. In fact the Famine Commissioner has ascertained that this is so. The personal equation of the weaver may lead to his weaving a closer or a looser web. It would be very difficult to ascertain the exact amount of sizing used without going through the troublesome process of carefully removing and weighing it all. This is a process more suited for a chemists' laboratory than for an appraiser's table. When it is remembered that at Jammalamadugu there are only two appraisers and that 9,000 cloths passed through their hands in a week, it is clear that such a minute examination is practically out of the question. Then again, who is to levy the penalty? It is rather an anomaly that two men, on Rs. 20 a month each, should have the power of fining, or threatening to fine, nearly 10,000 people every week. Still it is a fact that this system has gone on for months without complaint. For the ordinary petty routine variations, the system may continue. The only rule which, it appears to the Famine Commissioner, can, in cases where deliberate fraud is suspected, be adopted, is that the power of fining should be limited to the Divisional officers and the Special Famine or Weaving Deputy Collectors, who should take the advice of the supervising committee in cases of doubt. The appraiser should bring to their notice any case in which there is strong ground for believing that a fraud has been committed, but should be warned most strictly to abstain from all threats to the weavers. Prosecutions would be out of the question, for, not only would there be very great difficulty in bringing a case home, experts possibly differing in opinion, but also any action of this kind would produce a scare which would deter even the honest weavers from applying for relief. The Famine Commissioner would be glad to receive suggestions from Collectors and from the Special Deputy Collector for Weaving Operations as to the best way of dealing with frauds at weaving depôts.

3. The Famine Commissioner is unable to direct the introduction of the lincn tester, unless and until experiments show the number of threads that should be required to each one-fourth inch. The Deputy Collector in charge of Weavers' Relief Operations will be supplied with five of these testers for use by himself and the Deputy Tahsildars, and experiments should at once be made of the number of threads to be found in a one-fourth inch of a cloth manufactured of each count of yarn, which is in all respects up to the standard of the sample.

4. The attention of the Collector and of the Special Deputy Collector in charge of Weavers' Relief Operations will be drawn to the remarks upon the samples forwarded from the Bellary district. A verification should be made of the entries against cloth No. 17.

5. The cloths sent for examination were presumably passed by the appraisers. If so, the defects pointed out by Messrs. Binny & Co. show that the appraiser's work is inefficiently done, and more attention should be paid to the supervision of their work.

6. The Famine Commissioner is not sure that paragraph 4 of Messrs. Binny & Co.'s letter of 6th April can be taken quite literally. The only waste yarn which the weaver could produce would be the waste caused in the actual process of weaving,

and the end threads which fasten the warp to the loom, as also any yarn which might remain over. The yarn lost in the processes preliminary to the actual weaving could not be produced, but is, no doubt, very small, perhaps a tola or so.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Andru 9/6
Famine Secretary.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" " Collectors of affected districts.

" " Special Deputy Collector, Weaving Relief Operations.

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

<i>Recd.</i>	}	1897.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>			<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 628, 26th July 1897.

JULY.

Weavers' Relief Schemes.

Recording Board's Proceedings communicating, with remarks, results of examination by Messrs. Binny & Co., of samples of cloths woven under —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 3rd June 1897, No. 415:—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), dated 20th April 1897, Mis. No. 2859:—

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 6th April 1897, No. S.M.:—

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2457 M. of the 1st instant regarding wastage of material in connection with the projected weaving operations for famine relief.

2. The proposition placed before us is somewhat difficult, as we must assume that a great variety of cloths varying in texture will be manufactured.

3. On careful consideration and bearing in mind the sizing materials used by hand-loom weavers, we would recommend that the amount of size that is put on the yarn before manufacture should be taken as representing the wastage, and that no other allowance should be made.

4. Our reason for making this suggestion is that there is practically no unseen loss in the yarns used, and if any weaver cannot produce the equivalent weight in cloth of what he has received in yarn, the supervising officer, if the weaver considers he has a grievance, can call on him to produce the "waste" yarn.

5. If the waste yarn and the cloth produced together do not represent the weight of yarn supplied the weaver, there has obviously been a misappropriation of yarn.

6. We are of opinion that though the cloth may be found to exceed the weight of yarn supplied, the materials the up-country weavers use for sizing will not make a difference unduly in their favour.

7. If the Board will send us samples of cloth we shall be happy to test them and advise the quantity of size we find.

8. Assuming no size were used, an allowance of 4 per cent. for wastage would, we think, be ample, but the course we have indicated in paragraph 3 is the one we would recommend: as the measures are temporary, it would be difficult to lay down rules that would apply to each kind of cloth.

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 7th April 1897, No. S.M.:—

In continuation of our letter of yesterday, perhaps we should have mentioned that any Famine officer can easily ascertain the amount of conjee in a piece of cloth by weighing it, washing it, and after drying, again carefully weighing it, the difference in the two weighments will give the quantity of conjee, which in hand-made cloth we do not think should exceed 4—5 per cent.

We could speak with more decision on this question of percentage of conjee if the Board sent us a few representative patterns of cloth from various districts, say each piece to be not less than one yard long.

Machine-made cloth can be adulterated to the extent of an addition of over 100 per cent. to the weight; this is not of course possible with hand looms in India, but we should not like to say that hand-loom weavers could not put more than 5 per cent. of conjee in cloth until we had actually made tests.

Resolution—dated 20th April 1897, Mis. No. 2859.

The Board is obliged to Messrs. Binny & Co. for the information kindly furnished by them.

2. The Collectors of Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Anantapur will be requested to forward to Messrs. Binny & Co. samples of the various cloths woven under the weavers' relief schemes in operation in their districts, in order that the quantity of conjee used and the wastage of yarn in weaving may be ascertained. It must be noted that each pattern should be not less than one yard long. The quantity of yarn and other materials issued for the manufacture of each cloth should also be stated.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collectors of Deccan districts,
„ Messrs. Binny & Co.

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 14th May 1897:—

We have the honour to enclose a tabulated statement showing the results of our examination of samples of cloth sent us by the Collector of Cuddapah and the Acting Deputy Tahsildar of Kurnool.

Samples numbered 1—14 are from Cuddapah, whilst No. 15 is from Kurnool.

You will note that the amount of size (or conjee) varies very considerably.

Our estimate of 4—5 per cent. of size as being a probable amount mentioned in our letters of 6th and 7th ultimo was based on the assumption that only the warp (longitudinal) threads would be sized; we find, however, that in several of the samples of cloth examined, both warp and weft (transverse) threads are sized. It is very unusual to size the weft threads and is of no advantage to the weaver beyond that of gaining weight. It is possible that the entire cloths after weaving have been dipped in a conjee mixture which would account for the appearance of size on both warp and weft, but this would be an aggravated fraud and, if detected, dealt with accordingly.

The smallest quantity of size on any of the samples is 5.4 per cent. (No. 9), and in this case the weaver has brought about 5 per cent. more cloth than yarn, the shortage being very small. This is the result we should expect from hand-weaving. On the other hand in the case of sample No. 1, although there is over 11 per cent. of size, the weight of cloth is less than 1 per cent. in excess of the yarn supplied, so that we may fairly deduce that an abstraction of 10 per cent. of yarn has taken place.

These two cases will illustrate the difficulty in determining any hard and fast rule which will prevent fraud on the part of dishonest weavers, and at the same time not be unduly hard upon those honest weavers who do not put an excessive amount of size on their cloths. As a further illustration of the difficulty we may instance cloths Nos. 1 and 2. The weaver of No. 1 has made cloth weighing slightly more than the yarn supplied, whilst the weaver of No. 2 has made cloth slightly less in weight than the yarn supplied; yet in cloth No. 2 there is 1 per cent. less actual shortage of yarn than in cloth No. 1.

We are of opinion that a wastage allowance in yarn of 4 per cent. is fully ample. The average amount of size on the fifteen samples is a little over 9 per cent., so that on this average—with a wastage allowance of 4 per cent.—a weaver ought to bring cloth equal in weight to the weight of yarn given out, *plus* 5 per cent. Even if this stipulation were made, the weaver who put on say 12 per cent. size could easily cheat, whilst another weaver who only used 5 per cent. size would have a margin of 1 per cent. for wastage and thus might be very hardly treated.

We send herewith the three pieces Nos. 1, 5 and 9 for the Board's examination; No. 1 feels most heavily sized and an expert would at once suspect it, but the Board cannot have experts all over the districts, all they can do is to drop heavily on fraud when detected. No. 9 has been described above; No. 5 represents a heavily sized cloth, but no yarn has been abstracted.

We cannot urge that any alteration in the existing procedure under these circumstances will be successful as it would be impossible for the Board to test any very great quantity of the cloth woven.

It would be possible to provide Famine officers with examining glasses and stipulate to weavers for so many threads to the quarter inch being woven. This would be some check; a specimen glass is sent herewith which may be returned when done with. These glasses can be got at Messrs. P. Orr & Sons who call them "Linen testers."

If we can render the Board any further assistance we shall be very pleased to do so.

ENCLOSURE.

Number.	Description of cloth.	Weight (in tolas).	Weight of yarn as stated by Collector.	Net weight of yarn (in tolas).	Shortage of yarn.	Conjee.
1	5 × 5 cubit turban from bale 35, first lot	67.2	66.6	59.5	7.1=10.7	11.4
2	7 × 7 cubit turban from bale 13, first lot	57.6	58.5	52.8	5.7= 9.7	8.3
3	6 × 6 cubit turban from bale 1, first lot	102.0	93.0	91.1	1.9= 2.0	10.7
4	One four-cloth piece of panchas, 16 cubits, from bale 41, first lot	118.8	111.8	108.7	3.1= 2.8	8.5
5	Double edge 6 cubit four-cloth piece panchas from bale 201, fourth lot	127.2	111.8	112.7	0.9= 0.8 gain.	11.4
6	5 × 5 (really 6 × 6) cubit turban from bale 162, fourth lot	72.0	66.6	65.2	1.4= 2.1	9.4
7	6 × 6 cubit turban from bale 168, fourth lot	50.4	46.5	45.0	1.5= 3.2	10.7
8	7 × 7 cubit turban from bale 153, fourth lot	57.6	58.5	52.1	6.4=10.9	9.6
9	Single edge four-cloth piece, 6 cubit panchas, from bale 150, third lot	117.6	111.8	111.5	0.3= 0.3	5.4
10	Double edge four-cloth piece, 6 cubit panchas, from bale 150, third lot	117.6	111.8	110.6	1.2= 1.1	6.0
11	6 × 6 cubit turban from bale 119, third lot	100.8	93.0	91.8	1.2= 1.3	8.9
12	6 × 6 cubit turban from bale 75, second lot	46.8	46.5	42.5	4.0= 8.6	9.1
13	7 × 7 cubit turban from bale 66, second lot	60.0	58.5	55.8	2.7= 4.6	7.0
14	5 × 5 cubit turban from bale 59, second lot	64.8	66.6	59.2	7.4=11.1	8.6
15	Cloth from Kurnool marked "No. 31 Panchayloo-joodoo"	62.4	58.0	54.6	3.4= 5.9	12.5
Average shortage ..					= 4.9	

Read—the following letter from Messrs. BINNY & Co., Madras, to the Famine Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 18th May 1897:—

We have the honour to send herewith results of our examination of cloths received from the Acting Collector of Bellary.

We consider that the shortage of yarn in each of these samples is excessive, particularly in the case of No. 17 (Pachadam).

We would suggest with reference to No. 17 that in this case either there has been a mistake in the particulars sent us, or else something very far wrong; the cloth weighed 101 tolas, whilst according to the statement of particulars, 112 tolas of yarn had been given out; curiously enough the weight as marked on the ticket attached to the cloth is given as 4 seers 17 tolas which we presume would be 113 tolas.

If our translation of the ticket is right, then either there has been some mistake in weighing the cloth or a mis-statement of weight has been placed on the ticket.

Cloth No. 17 is also 2 inches too small in width measuring only 26 inches, whilst particulars supplied give the width 28 inches.

We have now sent you reports on samples of cloth from Cuddapah, Kurnool and Bellary. No samples have yet been received from Anantapur.

ENCLOSURE.

	Total weight.	Weight of yarn stated.	Net weight of yarn.	Shortage.	Conjee.
No. 16 Panchas (Bellary)	TOLAS. 67	68	61.1	6.9 = 10.1%	8.8%
No. 17 Pachadan (Do.)	101	112	90.9	22.1 = 19.7%	10%

Resolution—dated 3rd June 1897, No. 415.

From the experiments kindly made by Messrs. Binny & Co., which have been recorded above, it is clear that a certain amount of yarn is wasted in course of weaving, but that this wastage is more than made up by the quantity of conjee applied. It is considered that a wastage allowance in yarn of 4 per cent. is fully ample, and that as the amount of size applied is *on the average* a little over 9 per cent., a weaver ought to bring cloth equal in weight to the weight of yarn given out *plus* 5 per cent.; but, owing to the numerous varieties, and the large numbers of cloths woven, no change in the existing procedure is recommended, as it will be impossible to check any very great number of cloths. It may be taken that the woven cloth should never weigh less than the yarn advanced, and fines ought to be inflicted wherever deficiencies in weight are noticed. In cases where the cloths are of the correct weight but below the prescribed dimensions, it may be generally assumed that they are over-weighted with conjee and that yarn has been misappropriated. It may also be found that cloths are just up to or only just below the proper weight, but are very highly sized, and here again it is probable that there has been a misappropriation of yarn. Appraisers should be able to note without difficulty any case of excessive sizing. All cases of detected imposition ought to be severely dealt with, but the question is how; for, the question of levying penalties for shortage is not such a simple one as it might seem.

2. No doubt, it is desirable that dishonest weavers should be punished, but it should first be certain that they are dishonest. When this is proved, it would not be sufficient to fine the weaver the value of the yarn-shortage, as he would still have the yarn. It does not seem to be at all an easy matter to determine shortage. Firstly, the weight test is not of much use in places where the yarn issued, and the cloths received are weighed against stones, as has been the case for a long time in Jammalamadugu, and is still the case at Proddatur. The climate of the Deccan is so intensely dry, and high winds prevail so much there, that it is quite possible that the loss of yarn in handling may in some cases be even more than above estimated, or than mill-experience in the damp climate of Madras would expect. No doubt, there is the

fact that some cloths show no shortage, but the hands which handled the yarn were different—one weaver and his assistant may be much less dexterous and delicate of touch than others. If it were not for the congee added, there must in all cases be shortage, for the processes are multitudinous, and some, such as treading the yarn in congee-water with the feet, are very rough. In the mere weaving there is a distinct amount of fluff lost in the weaver's pit, and the fastening strings at one end are cut off. It is quite plain, therefore, that the weavers should not be accused of malpractices except on the clearest proof. Where both warp and woof are found to be sized, there is strong ground for suspicion, but even then the inquiry should be strictly judicial, not vindictive. Some cloths are woven with a very open web, and possibly sizing of both warp and woof may be necessary to make the threads keep proper intervals. The Special Deputy Collector for Weaving Operations should report on this. It is most desirable that cloths should be equal, not only in weight but also in dimensions, to the sample; for, when Government comes to sell these cloths, their value, in a wholesale transaction, will be depreciated, if not up to sample. On the other hand, hand-weaving is not so uniform as machine-weaving; it is not certain that all looms are of exactly the same dimensions. In fact the Famine Commissioner has ascertained that this is so. The personal equation of the weaver may lead to his weaving a closer or a looser web. It would be very difficult to ascertain the exact amount of sizing used without going through the troublesome process of carefully removing and weighing it all. This is a process more suited for a chemists' laboratory than for an appraiser's table. When it is remembered that at Jammalamadugu there are only two appraisers and that 9,000 cloths passed through their hands in a week, it is clear that such a minute examination is practically out of the question. Then again, who is to levy the penalty? It is rather an anomaly that two men, on Rs. 20 a month each, should have the power of fining, or threatening to fine, nearly 10,000 people every week. Still it is a fact that this system has gone on for months without complaint. For the ordinary petty routine variations, the system may continue. The only rule which, it appears to the Famine Commissioner, can, in cases where deliberate fraud is suspected, be adopted, is that the power of fining should be limited to the Divisional officers and the Special Famine or Weaving Deputy Collectors, who should take the advice of the supervising committee in cases of doubt. The appraiser should bring to their notice any case in which there is strong ground for believing that a fraud has been committed, but should be warned most strictly to abstain from all threats to the weavers. Prosecutions would be out of the question, for, not only would there be very great difficulty in bringing a case home, experts possibly differing in opinion, but also any action of this kind would produce a scare which would deter even the honest weavers from applying for relief. The Famine Commissioner would be glad to receive suggestions from Collectors and from the Special Deputy Collector for Weaving Operations as to the best way of dealing with frauds at weaving depôts.

3. The Famine Commissioner is unable to direct the introduction of the linen tester, unless and until experiments show the number of threads that should be required to each one-fourth inch. The Deputy Collector in charge of Weavers' Relief Operations will be supplied with five of these testers for use by himself and the Deputy Tahsildars, and experiments should at once be made of the number of threads to be found in a one-fourth inch of a cloth manufactured of each count of yarn, which is in all respects up to the standard of the sample.

4. The attention of the Collector and of the Special Deputy Collector in charge of Weavers' Relief Operations will be drawn to the remarks upon the samples forwarded from the Bellary district. A verification should be made of the entries against cloth No. 17.

5. The cloths sent for examination were presumably passed by the appraisers. If so, the defects pointed out by Messrs. Binny & Co. show that the appraiser's work is inefficiently done, and more attention should be paid to the supervision of their work.

6. The Famine Commissioner is not sure that paragraph 4 of Messrs. Binny & Co.'s letter of 6th April can be taken quite literally. The only waste yarn which the weaver could produce would be the waste caused in the actual process of weaving,

and the end threads which fasten the warp to the loom, as also any yarn which might remain over. The yarn lost in the processes preliminary to the actual weaving could not be produced, but is, no doubt, very small, perhaps a tola or so.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" " Collectors of affected districts.

" " Special Deputy Collector, Weaving Relief Operations.

ORDER—No. 628, Revenue, dated 26th July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Ed. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.