

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 856

Dated 7th October

[Despatch Abstract.]

Referring to the Famine Comm^r for
report letter from the Govt. of India enquiring
whether the classification of workers in the
monthly report on the affected districts in
the Madras Presidency for Aug. 1897 is
in strict accordance with the provisions
of the Famine Code.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 8388

- 1 The ...
- 2 The ...
- 3 His Excellency ...

and ... No 8560 ... Act. 1897.

Refer to the ...
for report

From the ...
the Govt. of India.
R. & A. Sept.

Order

The ... says that according to the Board's statement in the August report the vast majority of labourers relief workers are placed in class B, but that it observes from the ... report for N. 2 28th ... that the majority of the workers

No. 3054 71
60-23

Dated 22nd Sept. 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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consisted of women and children, and it enquires whether the classification which places ^{all} but a very small number in the category of able-bodied persons, accustomed to labour is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code.

SUBJECT.

Making certain observations on the Madras Famine Report for August 1897.

2. It is not quite clear what the Govt is driving at. It may be said that in ordinary times, as a rule, the families of men belonging to the labouring classes

from work 20/9

once - - -

assist the male members in the work or occupation in which the latter are engaged, and if the ^{adult} male members are entitled to be placed in class B the women and children should also be placed in the same class provided they are able bodied. The old classification is given at section 96 of the Famine Code:

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

- A. Able-bodied professional labourers (woodmen and others usually employed by the P.W.D.)
- B. Able-bodied persons ^{accustomed} to labour ~~belonging to the labouring classes~~ but not professional labourers (agri-cultural labourers, town labourers wood-cutters &c)

- C. Able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour (artisans, shopkeepers, &c)

- D. Weakly persons.

All the four classes include of course women and children. The preponderance of the latter may show that the distress is not perhaps very severe, but it is not clear how it throws any doubt ~~on~~ the correctness of ^{the} classification.

- Q. May a report be called for from the Famine Commr?

3. Perhaps the G.O. of 9

is thinking of the observations and suggestion in para 11 of its letter $\frac{2266}{116-5}$ of 14-6-97. In this letter it observed that in Madras the unit of classification was the gang and that every person in the gang was an A, B, C or D worker according to the class of the gang, while in other provinces the procedure was first to classify the ~~gang~~ individual relief workers according to their varying capacity, then to form the gangs, and then to find the rank of the gang with reference to the number of A, B, C + D workers which it contained, and suggested that, as the latter system was more flexible and fair to individual work, the question should be examined by the Govt Madras ^{while} ~~throughout~~ admitting that it was too late to make any change thereat.

- 4. The old classification has therefore been allowed to continue but it must be noted that the Govt description of it is not quite correct. The gang is no doubt the unit of classification, but not in the sense that all persons in the same class are put into the same gang.

assist in
 one gang. The Govt I probably
 would say that ^{the fact that a family} ~~as a family~~
 belongs to the labouring classes does
 not necessarily show that all its
 able-bodied members are capable
 of turning out the tasks; but
 the principle of proportionate
 is a sufficient provision for any
 possible admission ^{into the B class} of persons ~~in~~
~~a higher class~~ unaccustomed
 to labour. The only objection of
 the Govt I do the code classification
 was that the orders of the 30th
 March placing restrictions on
 hiring rendered it possible for
 a gang to be overclassified without
 incurring a penalty; but this
 has all been changed & the rule
 now is payment proportionate
 to the out. turn. In fact a person
 now suffers from being overclassified
 as their rise in wages as are
 forced from the lower to
 the higher classes is less than
 the rise in tasks

What the note says is all true
 but I do not see what the
 Govt of India wants. I submit
 the paper may be referred to the
 Famine Commission.
 11/30/97

As the Sec. suggests, I think
 the letter should be referred to the
 Famine Commission; but I feel
 the meaning of the Govt of
 India is plain: it came to
 me to say that it may be that
 a gang with men of the B class
 whilst there were a lot of men
 in it may, now that most of
 the men have gone away, be
 of the C class consisting of
 women & children who are
 able-bodied but not accustomed
 to labour.

But is this in accordance
 with the fact? I should suggest
 for the women & children of the
 B class & also those who are
 turned to labour.

The matter should be referred to the Famine Commission
 for report.

Dr. L. S.
 11/10/97

No. 3054 7
 60-23
 22 SEP 1897

FROM

T. W. HOLDERNESS, ESQ., I.C.S.,
 Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
 Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine),

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Simla, the 22nd September 1897.

Department of Revenue
 and Agriculture.
 (Famine.)

SIR,

I am directed to say that the Government of
 India observe from the Madras Famine Report for August
 submitted by the Board of Revenue in its letter No. 618,
 dated 13th September 1897, that the great majority of
 the relief labourers in August were classed as B workers
 and received the B wage, the numbers in the D class being
 very small, and those in the C class being for the most
 part weavers.

13/8/97
 618
 13887

2. From the weekly return for the 28th August published
 in the Madras Government Gazette of the 31st August it
 appears that, excluding weavers, the relief workers con-
 sisted of:- men 12,648: women 211,628: children 67,175.
 As children over 12 are classed as adults, the numbers
 under "men" and "women" must have included a number of
 boys & girls between the ages of 12 and 16. Having re-
 gard to the large proportion of women and children in the
 total relief worker population which these figures indi-
 cate, the Government of India will be glad to know whether
 the Government of Madras considers that the August class-
 ification of workers, which places all but a very small
 number

number of the workers in the category of able-bodied persons accustomed to labour, is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
your most obedient servant,

M. L. S. S.
Deputy Secretary.

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 856, 7th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

**Monthly Report on the affected Districts in the Madras Presidency
for August 1897.**

Referring to the Famine Commissioner, for report, letter from the Government of India enquiring whether the classification of workers in the — is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Famine), to the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated 22nd September 1897, No. 3054-F.—60-23:—

I am directed to say that the Government of India observe from the Madras Famine Report for August submitted by the Board of Revenue in its letter, No. 618, dated 13th September 1897, that the great majority of the relief labourers in August were classed as B workers and received the B wage, the numbers in the D class being very small and those in the C class being for the most part weavers.

2. From the weekly return for the 28th August published in the Madras Government Gazette of the 31st August, it appears that, excluding weavers, the relief workers consisted of:—men 125,648, women 211,023, children 67,175. As children over 12 are classed as adults, the numbers under “men” and “women” must have included a number of boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 16. Having regard to the large proportion of women and children in the total relief worker population which these figures indicate, the Government of India will be glad to know whether the Government of Madras considers that the August classification of workers, which places all but a very small number of the workers in the category of able-bodied persons accustomed to labour, is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code.

ORDER—No. 856, Revenue, dated 7th October 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Referred to the Famine Commissioner for report.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Famine Commissioner.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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