

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 937

Dated 12th November 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Commy. to the Board of Revenue
letter from the Govt. of India suggesting
the adoption of the American system
of notation for estimating the outturn
of crops

[illegible]

No.	Department	Loc.	U.S.	No.	Det. or M.	Date
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60-115	5203	Dept.	1-12	1741		

AGRICULTURE

Serial No. 4.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Circular No. 9—27·4

Simla, the 23rd October 1897.

Recd 1-11-97
Reg^r 2 " 97

The Hon. Mr. Justice C.J.E.
AP
misc. Order No. 937 of 12th Nov. 1897.
61/197

Communicates to
the Board of Rev: for in-
formation and guidance.

SUBJECT.

To The D. of Rev. (Mrs. G. H. H. H.)
 at 13-11-07
 for estimating the outturn
 P. C. H. 22-11-07

Suggests the adoption of the American system of notation for estimating the outturn of crops in the forecasts.

change is proposed. The Govt. of India have
this Govt. to prescribe the standard for the
notation. The function can be best crop at 16 annas
at 12 annas. vide B.P. no. 593.
G. C. Press, Simla - No. 1081 R & A D. - 25-10-97. - 900.
was subsequently altered to 10-5-98.

The accuracy of their forecasts depends so entirely on the judgment of LOS & Res Inspectors that changes of notation seem of very little use in the conditions, to

Bumper = 20 annas
Average = 16 annas
Whiddling = 12 annas
Half average = 8 annas

} bird per
4 first hen
of the village
Mamm

Government {1897} of Madras.
REVENUE.

12
1P
Circular No. 9-27-4.

FROM

F. G. SLY, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Agriculture.

Simla, the 23rd October 1897.

SIR,

In paragraph 14 of the Government of India's Circular No. 89-A., dated the 25th July 1884, which dealt with the preparation of forecasts of crops, it was pointed out that in estimating the probable outturn of crops, there was no objection to the employment of the American system under which 100 is used to denote an average crop, or if preferred, that the system of anna notation might be adopted, provided that twelve annas were taken to denote an average and sixteen annas a

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 937, 12th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

American system of notation for estimating the outturn of crops.

Communicating to the Board of Revenue, for information and guidance, letter from the Government of India suggesting the adoption of the — in the forecasts.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from F. G. SLY, Esq., I.C.S., Under Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Revenue and Agriculture—Agriculture), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 23rd October 1897, Cir. No. 9—27-4:—

In paragraph 14 of the Government of India's Circular No. 89-A., dated the 25th July 1884, which dealt with the preparation of forecasts of crops, it was pointed out that in estimating the probable outturn of crops, there was no objection to the employment of the American system under which 100 is used to denote an average crop, or if preferred, that the system of anna notation might be adopted, provided that 12 annas were taken to denote an average and 16 annas a bumper crop.

2. It was, however, presently brought to the notice of the Government of India that the latter system was unsuited to the North-Western Provinces, where ordinarily 16 annas is used to denote a good average crop and 20 to 22 annas a bumper crop. As it was considered essential that the system of notation should be uniform for all provinces, local Governments were asked whether there would be any objection to the general adoption of that in use in the North-Western Provinces. The replies received showed that in some part or other of most, and in the whole of some provinces, 16 annas is used to denote an average crop; and all local Governments, with only two exceptions, were willing to adopt this standard in framing their crop forecasts. Accordingly, the Government of India, in their Resolution No. 129-A—7-197 of the 6th November 1885, pointed out the absolute necessity for the adoption of one uniform standard, and prescribed 16 annas as the standard to be used in future to denote an average crop.

3. Since the revision of the form of crop forecasts in 1892, anna estimates are no longer used in the final forecasts; but they are still frequently employed in the first and second forecasts. It has, however, been strongly and repeatedly urged upon the Government of India that the adoption of a scale which is at variance with that in local use necessarily tends to confuse the estimates; and it has been pointed out that the result of this confusion is that in some provinces the estimate has never yet been pitched so high as a sixteen-anna or average crop.

4. The Government of India have therefore decided that in future it shall be left to local Governments and Administrations to fix the scale of notation for themselves, in accordance with local conditions, the object being to secure that the returns are in terms of a normal crop. To secure conformity with local usage, it may even be necessary to use different scales in different parts of the same province. This being so, it is obvious that the anna standard will no longer possess any fixed or uniform value, and will therefore be unsuitable for use in any published forecasts. I am therefore to request that, in all future forecasts that may be furnished to the Government of India or the Director-General of Statistics, the use of the anna notation may be entirely discontinued, and the American notation used in its stead, 100 being taken to represent a normal crop, and the estimated outturn being stated as a percentage of that crop.

Indeed there is reason to believe that, apart from the formal periodical forecasts, all estimates of crop-outturn furnished to the Government of India, such for instance as have been reported in connection with this year's famine, are subject to the same uncertainty of standard; and I am therefore to request that in future, whenever outturn is mentioned in such cases, either the American notation may be used, or, if the anna scale is preferred, the standard on which it is based may be stated. A brief parenthesis (so many annas=normal) is quite sufficient.

5. It will be noticed that in the above instructions, the word "normal" has been substituted for "average." The normal crop has been defined as "that crop which past experience has shown to be the most generally recurring crop in a series of years; the typical crop of the local area, the crop which the cultivator has a right (as it were) to expect, and with which he is (or should be) content, while if he gets more he has reason to rejoice, and if less he has reason to complain." This will not necessarily correspond with the average crop of a series of years, which is indeed an arithmetical abstraction, and may possibly never occur. For it is obvious that in a tract in which the agricultural standard is low and the harvest precarious, the yield of the year will fall below the normal as above defined more often and more largely than will be the case in a highly cultivated and well irrigated tract, and that in the former case the average will probably be considerably below the normal, while in the latter it will probably approximate very closely to it.

ORDER—No. 937, Revenue, dated 12th November 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

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

Rd. Shaik Karim.

50 Copies.