

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1095

DATED 15th March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B. P. (Sett.) passing orders on
letter from the C.M. of Bellary reporting that
no reduction of Settlement rates of assessment
on the Waste lands in the Alur Taluk, Bellary Dist.
is necessary for the present.

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 (1899) Sept

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Current No 1470

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FEBRUARY.

16/3/99

To the Board of Rev (Rshkta)
18-3-99.

aa
4/3/98

Settlement rates of assessment.—Passing orders on letter from the Collector of Bellary reporting that no reduction of — on the waste lands in the Alur taluk, Bellary district, is necessary for the present.

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

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S., L.R. and Agri.), No. 83, dated 1st May 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government report on the introduction of new settlement rate into the Bellary and into the Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Bellary and Anantapur districts.

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (R.S. L.R. and Agri.), No. 142, dated 18th February 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating, with remarks, Government Order on the report on the results of the introduction of the new settlement rates into the whole of the Bellary district and Gooty and Tadpatri taluks of Anantapur district.

READ—also the following letter from E. A. ELWIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 5th January 1899, R. Disposal No. 7:—

With reference to the last sentence of paragraph 13 of B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896, calling for a report as to the advisability of reducing the rates on the assessed waste in the Alur taluk, I have the honour to state as follows.

2. In the Alur taluk, regar soils predominate. The unoccupied waste in dry exists in a large number of villages and exceeds acres 1,000 in each of villages named below:—

	Waste in fasli 1307.						
	ACS.						
Kurukundi	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,052
Peddahotur	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000
Ramadurgam	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,232
Chinnahotur	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,026
Joharapuram	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,103
Hattibelagal	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,368
Molagavalli	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,532

The reasons generally given for the failure of the ryots to bring under cultivation the large extents of assessed land lying waste are—

- (i) Paucity and poverty of the population.
- (ii) Existence of saline efflorescence and want of fertility in the soil.
- (iii) Distance of the assessed lands from the village natham.
- (iv) Overgrowth of nath grass and the difficulty of eradicating it.
- (v) Scanty rainfall and constant recurring famines in the taluk.
- (vi) Difficulty of tapping drinking water in many places.

All or several of the above reasons are applicable to most of the villages where the waste is considerable.

3. The Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, No. I Party, Mr. Cox, in paragraph 77 of his report on the settlement scheme in this district, printed in B.P., No. 591 (Revenue Settlement), dated 24th October 1888, observed that the classification of the waste in Alur was too high and suggested that it should be modified

to an average of about 14 annas in dry. The Government accepted the suggestion in paragraph 11 of its Order No. 729, Revenue, dated 12th September 1890, printed in B.P., No. 309, dated 15th December 1890, and directed that it should be carried out during settlement. This direction does not seem to have been carried out at the introduction of the settlement, as from the table appended to paragraph 65 of the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Rangachariar's report embodied in the Board's Proceedings under reply, it is seen that the average assessment for occupied lands is Rs. 1-3-5 and for unoccupied lands Rs. 1-3-1. No reasons are given in the report why a reduction in the rates of assessment on the unoccupied waste was not effected in the manner directed by Government.

4. Following Mr. Cox's suggestion, the present Divisional officer of Adóni, M.R.Ry. A. Shunmugamsundaram Pillai Avargal, proposes a reduction by one place in the money rates of Rs. 2, 1½, 1 and As. 12 under which the waste is considerable and remarks that, if the proposed reduction be carried out, the average assessment for unoccupied dry will be brought down to about 14 annas. I am not at present prepared to recommend the proposed reduction. The occupied Circular area as per settlement, was acres 198,806 the unoccupied area being acres 49,338 (page 6 of B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896). The occupied area including wet as per jamabandi return No. 3 for fasli 1307 stands at acres 216,693, thereby showing an increase of acres 17,887 over the occupied area as per settlement. The gradual increase in the occupied area since settlement (except in fasli 1305) does not show that the omission to carry out the reduction in the rates of assessment at settlement as suggested by Mr. Cox has in any perceptible degree affected the extension of cultivation. There was a general complaint last fasli at the jamabandi which was conducted by me that the charging of assessment for mere preparation of the land for cultivation accounted to a great extent for the waste not being taken up. This charge is being made under Collector's Standing Order No. 10 of 1894, wherein it is laid down that all unauthorized occupation and ploughing of fields prior to the end of the fasli should be charged for that fasli, even though the seed is not sown till after the beginning of the next fasli. The existence of this rule which is said to have been based on B.P., No. 657, dated 27th September 1892 is, I consider, a real hardship and prejudicial to the extension of cultivation, as the bulk of the cultivable area of the Alur taluk consists of black cotton soil (91 per cent. of the total area), the ploughing and preparation of which for cultivation is specially difficult and costly. Paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings quoted above allows discretion to the Collector in the matter of imposing charge on such occupation. I am therefore issuing instructions that the experiment be tried of allowing ryots to take up waste land in the Alur taluk on darkhast on the understanding that no assessment need be paid for the year in which the land is merely ploughed and prepared for cultivation but not actually sown. I shall watch the results of the experiment for two full years, that is, till the close of fasli 1310, and if the concession allowed is not availed of to any appreciable extent shall then formulate proposals for reduction in the rates of assessment. I enclose a copy of my proceedings reviewing the Deputy Collector's report on the result of his enquiries.

5. I much regret the delay which has occurred in the submission of this report. During last year's jamabandi I wanted to investigate the question personally but was prevented from doing so on account of the plague precautionary measures.

ENCLOSURE

Proceedings of the Collector of Bellary, dated 5th January 1899.

Read—the following papers.

(i) This office reference on G.B. No. 641, dated 5th June 1896, communicating B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896, and requesting the Divisional-officer, Adóni, to report on the advisability of reducing the rates on the assessed waste in the Alur taluk.

(ii) Letter No. 950, dated 14th September 1897, from the Divisional-officer, Adóni, M.R.Ry K. Narasimha Rao Pantulu Garu submitting a statement of unoccupied assessed waste lands in the Alur taluk and stating that in his opinion no reduction in the rates of assessment is necessary.

(iii) This office reference on G.B., No. 641 of 1896, dated 29th September 1897, requesting the Divisional-officer to inspect some of the thirteen villages in which the waste is considerable and report the result after making personal enquiries of the ryots.

(iv) Letter No. 243, dated 3rd December 1898, from the present Divisional-officer M.R.Ry. A. Shanmugasundaram Pillai Avergal reporting on the result of enquiries made by him and suggesting a reduction in the rates of assessment.

(v) Letter reference on H.C. No. 1235, dated 9th December 1898, from the same officer reporting the villages visited by him.

Order.

In this office reference on G.B. No. 641 of 1896, dated 30th October 1898, the present Divisional-officer of Adóni M.R.Ry. A. Shanmugasundaram Pillai Avergal was requested to visit several of the thirteen villages in which the waste is reported to be considerable, to make personal enquiries, and to submit a complete report.

2. In the last paper read above, the Divisional-officer reports that he visited themarginally-noted seven villages and made local enquiries. Of these seven villages, only three (Hubibedu, Molaganalli and Joharapuram) find place among the thirteen villages mentioned in paragraph 1 above. Morakattu and Kammerchedu

1. Aspari.
2. Joharapuram.
3. Molaganalli.
4. Alúr.

5. Hubibedu.
6. Morakattu.
7. Kammerchedu.

are not important villages, as the waste therein measures only acres 287 and acres 145, respectively. Even in the other two villages Aspari and Alúr, the waste is not considerable being but acres 756 and acres 580, respectively. The Deputy Collector's travelling allowance bill for November shows his movements for general inspection to have been as follows:—

24th November 1898, Adóni to Aspari.

25th " " Aspari to Molaganalli.

26th November 1898, Molaganalli.

27th " " Molaganalli to Alúr.

From the above it will be seen that he halted at Molaganalli for a day and that he did not halt at any of the remaining six villages reported by him to have been inspected. The Deputy Collector could not have therefore paid more than a flying visit to these villages. The matter being a very important one, the Acting Collector is constrained to remark that the Deputy Collector's inspection was defective and that his local enquiries, if any, must have been most perfunctory.

3. The Divisional-officer submits two statements, one showing the assessed waste in each village under different rates for the whole taluk comparing the figures of fasli 1300 (the year of the introduction of settlement) with those of fasli 1305 and another showing the waste in 31 villages where the extent in each village is said to have exceeded acres 300. The waste in Heraibal measured only acres 192 and should not have therefore found place in the latter statement. Of the remaining 30 villages, the waste in the following villages in fasli 1305 exceeded that of the settlement year (fasli 1300).

Name of village.	Waste in fasli 1300.	Waste in fasli 1305.
	ACS.	ACS.
Ravihal	...	...
Kurúkundi	...	...
Peddahotur	...	...
Ramadurgam	...	...
Santekudlur	...	...
Hariyanem	...	...
Kanchagarabelagal	...	...
Angasakallu	...	...
Nagaradona	...	...
	117	1,118
	962	1,105
	2,715	2,986
	1,158	1,275
	150	687
	743	827
	185	351
	394	441
	368	441

In the third paper read above it was observed that in Ravihal the unoccupied area had increased from acres 116.88 to acres 1,118.28 since the settlement was introduced, that there was a similar increase in Santekullurn, Kanchagarabelagal and a few other villages and that this might be due to an increased extent of land having been assessed and not to relinquishments but that the actual cause should be ascertained and reported. The present Deputy Collector's report is silent on this point.

4. The Deputy Collector states that the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Cox in submitting his scheme for the settlement in this district, remarked in paragraph 77 of his report printed in B.P., No. 591, dated 24th October 1888, that the classification of waste in Alúr was too high and must be modified to an average of about 14 annas in dry, that the suggestion was accepted by Government but was not carried out during settlement, and that one of the chief causes, if not the only cause, for the large extents of assessed lands lying waste, is the high rate of assessment.

He therefore proposes a reduction by one place in the money-rates of Rs. 2, 1½, 1 and As. 12 under which the waste in fasli 1305 was considerable as compared with fasli 1300 and remarks that, if the reduction be carried out, the average rate will be brought down to about 14 annas as suggested by Mr. Cox, and that it will encourage extension of cultivation.

5. The financial effect of the Divisional-officer's proposal is as shown below:—

Present money-rate.	Waste in fasli 1300.	Waste in fasli 1305.	Assessment on the waste of fasli 1305.	Proposed money-rate.	Assessment on waste of fasli 1305 at proposed rate.	Decrease.
	ACS.	ACS.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Rupees 2	6,204	4,382	8,764 0 0	1 8 0	6,573 0 0	2,191 0 0
Rupees 1½	15,460	13,217	19,825 8 0	1 0 0	13,217 0 0	6,608 8 0
Rupees 1	12,559	10,231	10,231 0 0	0 12 0	7,673 4 0	2,557 12 0
Annas 12	5,024	3,969	2,826 12 0	0 8 0	1,984 8 0	842 4 0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	12,199 8 0

The Deputy Collector has not by figures and facts clearly demonstrated the necessity for carrying out the reduction in the manner proposed by him. For obtaining more accurate results, the Deputy Collector should have taken the latest figures available, viz., those of fasli 1307. The adoption of the figures of fasli 1305 is likely to give rise to misleading results.

6. According to the jamabandi returns an area of about acres 3,700 assessed at Rs. 4,763 was taken up during faslis 1306 and 1307. The annexed statement shows that there has been a steady increase in the occupied area from year to year since settlement except in fasli 1305 and that between fasli 1300 and fasli 1307, the occupied area has risen by acres 16,242. The total assessed area of the Alúr taluk being acres 248,145 (page 6 of B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896), the average increase in the holdings per annum comes to about 7 per cent. compared with the occupied area as per settlement, viz., acres 198,806 given at page 6 of B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896, the occupied area in fasli 1307 including wet as per jamabandi return No. 3 shows an increase of acres 17,887, the unoccupied circular area as per settlement being acres 49,339. These results are not discouraging. The Deputy Collector in paragraph 5 of his letter gives the extent occupied between faslis 1300 and 1305 as acres 7,580. This figure does not seem to be correct as according to the jamabandi returns, the extent occupied during the same period was acres 12,515.

STATEMENT showing the extent of lands occupied, relinquished and taken up in Alúr taluk for the last eight faslis ending with fasli 1307, i.e. since settlement.

Dry.

Fasli.	Ryots' holdings.	Deduct lands given up, &c.	Remainder.	Add lands taken up.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1300 Dry	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
1301	191,687	6,870	184,817	15,206	200,023
1302	200,023	6,050	193,973	7,624	201,597
1303	201,597	3,582	198,015	6,541	204,556
1304	204,556	7,326	197,230	12,434	209,664
1305	209,664	8,864	200,800	12,347	213,147
1306	213,147	10,271	202,876	9,662	212,538
1307	212,538	9,451	203,087	11,557	214,644
	214,644	2,415	212,229	4,036	216,265

Compared with the neighbouring taluk of Adóni the case of Alúr is not bad. According to the Deputy Collector, the waste in the Alúr taluk in fasli 1305 was acres 35,395 while in the same year it was about acres 55,741 in the Adóni taluk (acres 278,745 as per settlement)—acres 223,004 (as per jamabandi return No. 3 of fasli 1305). The increase in the occupied area in the Adóni taluk between faslis 1300 and 1305 was acres 10,540, while it was acres 12,515 during the same period in the Alúr taluk. Thus the ryots in the Alúr taluk are not more backward in taking up waste land than those in the Adóni taluk.

7. In the foregoing circumstances the Acting Collector is not prepared at present to recommend to the Board the reduction in the money-rates as proposed by the Divisional-officer.

There was a general complaint at the jamabandi last fasli that the charging of assessment for mere preparation of the land for cultivation under Collector's Standing Order No. 10 of 1894 accounted to a great extent for the waste not being taken up. The Collector's Standing Order quoted lays down that all unauthorised occupation and ploughing of fields prior to the end of the fasli should be charged for that fasli, even though the seed is not sown till after the beginning of the next fasli. The Acting Collector is convinced that the existence of this rule is a real hardship to ryots. The ploughing of black cotton soils of which 91 per cent. of the total area of the Alúr taluk consists is specially difficult and costly. To induce ryots to take up the unoccupied lands which would otherwise be waste, some concession seems necessary. The Acting Collector resolves therefore to try for a period of two years (that is, till the close of fasli 1310) the experiment of allowing ryots to take up on darkhast waste land in the Alúr taluk on the understanding that no assessment need be paid for the year in which they plough and prepare the land but do not actually sow. Paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 657 (Revenue Settlement), dated 27th September 1892, communicated with this office index No. 1442, dated 2nd November 1892, allows discretion to Collectors in the matter of exempting such occupation from charge if it is only the preliminary processes of cultivation that are carried on at the close of the year and not the actual growing of the crop. The Deputy Collector is requested to take steps to notify the concession in all the villages of the Alúr taluk and submit the first report on the results of the experiment at the close of fasli 1308. The ryots should be given distinctly to understand that the concession will be allowed only in cases in which the land is taken up after their darkhast are accepted and that if they occupy land without permission, assessment will be charged though the occupation does not extend beyond the preliminary processes of ploughing, &c.

8. The Divisional-officer is requested to submit a statement in the form noted below showing the extent of unoccupied assessed waste (dry) available for assignment in each village of the Alúr taluk in detail of fields. On receipt of the statement, a notice will be published in the village sheet of the district and copies of the statement supplied to the Tahsildars to be hung up at the village chavadis and for distribution among the well-to-do ryots. Hand-bills will also be printed and supplied to the Tahsildars for free distribution among the ryots. The Divisional-officer, Tahsildar, and Revenue Inspectors should take opportunities to explain the concession to the ryots and encourage them to take up the waste land. The success of the experiment depends in a large measure on the degree of promptitude with which applications for waste land are disposed of. The work of the Tahsildar in this respect must be carefully supervised by the Divisional-officer.

Name of village.	Survey number.	Sub-division.		Class and sort of soil.	Extent.	Assessment.
		Direction.	Letter.			
					ACS.	RS. A. P.

RESOLUTION—No. 43, dated 7th February 1899.

In paragraph 13 of B.P., No. 83, dated 1st May 1896, reviewing the Deputy Commissioner's report on the introduction of new settlement rates into the Bellary district, it was remarked that the average rate of assessment on unoccupied land in the Alúr taluk was very nearly the same as that on occupied land, and the Collector was requested to consider the question of the advisability of reducing the rates on the assessed waste in the taluk.

2. The last paper read above contains the Collector's report wherein he states that, though the extent of waste land is still considerable in several villages, the extent of occupied area has been gradually increasing since the introduction of settlement rates, and that out of a total of 49,338 acres which were unoccupied at the time of settlement (fasli 1300), nearly 17,887 acres, or 36 per cent., have been since occupied. The Collector considers that the increase would have been larger were it not for the operation of a district standing order under which land taken up and prepared for cultivation at the end of a fasli is charged assessment for that fasli, even though no seed was sown till after the beginning of the next fasli. In the opinion of the

Collector, the settlement rates have not, in any appreciable degree, retarded the extension of cultivation; but in order to further induce the ryots to take up the large areas still lying waste he proposes, as a tentative measure, to relax the restrictions imposed by the district standing order referred to above and to allow the ryots to take up waste land in the Alúr taluk on darkhast, on the understanding that no assessment need be paid for the year in which the land is merely ploughed and prepared for cultivation but not actually sown. The Board agrees with the Collector and approves the instructions issued by him. As directed in paragraph 2 of B.P., No. 657, dated 27th September 1892, the pattas for lands taken up on the understanding above referred to should be granted in the year following that in which the darkhast is accepted. A report on the results of the experiment should be submitted by January 1902, and it should contain information as to how much of the assessed waste of that year has remained unoccupied owing to the several causes detailed in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter read above.

3. In paragraph 11 of its Order No. 729, Revenue, dated 12th September 1890, Government directed that the assessment on waste land in Alúr should be reduced during settlement in the manner suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Cox, in paragraph 77 of his original report printed in B.P., No. 591, dated 24th October 1888. It does not appear from the Deputy Commissioner M.R.Ry. Ranga Chariar's report on the introduction of settlement into the district, that any reduction was carried out. He will now be requested to explain why effect was not given to the orders of Government in this respect.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.

„ Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Party No. I.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Current No. 1470/99.

From The Board of Revenue. (Rshkta).

N^o 43 Dated 7th February 1899.

FOR ORDERS.

To Under Secretary

The Deputy Commr. of Revenue settlement N^o 1 Party, Mr Cox, in para 77 of his report on the scheme for the settlement of certain taluks of Bellary and Anantapur, observed that the classification of the waste in these taluks was too high and suggested that it should be modified to an average of about 14 annas in the pie. The Govt. while passing orders on the revised proposals of the Board of Revenue for the settlement of these taluks, accepted Mr Cox's suggestion and directed that the reduction of the assessment of wastelands in these should be carried out during settlement. This direction, however, was not carried out at the introduction of the

* Prints in P.S. N^o 591
24-10-98

A

(Vide) Co. 729. B. d. 12-9-90.

B

the settlement and consequently, the average rate of assessment on unoccupied land in the Alur taluk was very nearly the same as that on occupied land.

2 The Board of Revenue while reviewing the Dy Commr's report on the introduction of the new sett rates into the Bellary Dist. Called for a report from the Colly as to the advisability of reducing the rates on the assessed waste in the taluk.

The Current read above contains the Colly's report wherein he states that, out of a total of 49,338 acres left unoccupied at the time of Sett nearly 17,887 acres have been since occupied and that the increase would have been larger were it not for the operation of the District Standing Order No. 10 under which land taken up and prepared for Cultivation at the end of a fasli is charged assessment for that fasli even though no seed was sown till after the beginning of the next fasli.

3 The Collector is of opinion, therefore, that such a gradual

Why not specify
the amount? N

(Vide) B.P. No. 83 dt 1-5-96. printed in
Colly 429
28.8.96

C

gradual increase in the occupied area despite the operation of the Standing Order referred to, shows that the sett rates have not in any perceptible degree retarded the extension of ^{further} Cultivation. "But in order to induce the ryots to take up the large areas of still lying waste he proposes, as a tentative measure, to relax the restrictions imposed by the Standing Order and to allow the ryots to take up wasteland in the Alur taluk on darkhast on the understanding that no assessment need be paid for the year in which the land is merely ploughed and prepared for Cultivation but not actually sown."

1 The Board agrees with the Collector.

4. As has already been stated in para 1 supra, no reduction of ass^t in Alur was carried out at Sett as directed by Govt in para 11 of its Order No. 729 dt 12-9-90. The Board has now called upon the Dy. Commr to explain why effect was not given to the orders of the Govt in this respect. to Govt
5. The B.P. is submitted ~~for the~~ information ~~of Govt~~ and may therefore, it is submitted, be

Para 3 of the Current.
B.P. 48
7-2-99.

be recorded.

A draft order is accordingly put up on the docket.

FOR ORDERS.

aa
4/3/88

Secy
9/13/88

The B.P. may be recorded.
I confess I don't see much use in the Board's inquiring why the old orders were not given effect to, seeing that it is apparently prepared to accept the view that the rates on waste are not in fact, as shown by the extent applications for the land, too high.

SP
10/3/9

To Under Secretary
draft order

The Board may know he submitted for the Secretary's initials.

aa
14.3.99

Not necessary.
Secy has written above.
Jm
15/3/88

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

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.

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