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Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 367

DATED 25th January 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

with remarks
Communicating to the Board of Revenue for
early report letter from the Govt of
India regarding the collection of
Agricultural Statistics in Tamil Nadu
hitherto.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

File No. 221 of 1898.

SERIAL No. 1.

Rev. 1898. *Depar*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.



GENERAL.

Current No 8766

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPT.

No. 3418-221-1.

Dated Calcutta, the 15th December 1898.

Recd. 27-12-98

Registered 27-12-98

Enc-1.

SUBJECT.

COLLECTION of Agricultural Statistics for the Zemindari area of the
Madras Presidency.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 470 R. & A.—17-12-98.—74.—Rose.

9
27/12/98

No. 3418—221-1.

FROM

T. W. HOLDERNESS, Esq., C.S.I.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPT.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
General.

Dated Calcutta, the 15th December 1898.

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I AM directed to address you with reference to the Agricultural Statistics furnished by the Government of Madras, and to enquire whether the Local Government is now in a position to supply statistics for the zemindari area of the Presidency, the omission of which from the present returns detracts so largely from their value.

2. By Madras Act II of 1894 full provision has been made for the appointment of village servants and the furnishing of accounts in accordance with rules to be framed by the Board of Revenue; and from the Government

Notification No. 457, of the 20th September 1897.

Government Order No. 793 (Rev.), of the 20th September 1897.

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Inam villages, that rules have been framed by the Board and are in force in the same tract, and that the extension of the Act and rules to large Inam villages outside the tract is contemplated, if it has not been already effected. It should therefore, it is thought, be possible to supply agricultural statistics for the estates within which the Act and rules are in operation, and, for the Inam villages, estimates framed in the manner indicated in the letter addressed by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1050 of the 5th June 1891, a copy of which I am to enclose.

3. The preparation of the statistics will no doubt give trouble in the first instance, nor is it to be expected that any great degree of accuracy will be attained immediately. Careful check by the district officers will be required, and should in time, if intelligently and consistently applied, ensure at least approximate accuracy. In any case the Government of India consider that every effort should now be made to fill up the existing blank in the returns for British India, and I am to express the hope that the Governor in Council will give such assistance as is feasible to the endeavour to attain that end.

I have the honour to be,

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Your most obedient servant,

M. M. M.
Secretary to the Government of India.

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From—M. FINUCANE, Esq., C. S., Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal,
To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

WITH reference to your No. 884A., dated 19th August 1890, and previous correspondence, I have the honour to submit tables of agricultural statistics called for by the Government of India in the forms prescribed in their circular letter No. ^{81 Stats.} 13-4, dated 11th September 1888.

(1) TABLE A (*Forms A and B combined*).—This table purports to show the total area of each district, the cultivated and uncultivated area, and the area under each of the principal crops. The manner in which the figures entered in it have been compiled is as follows:—

- In Wards' and Government estates, of which maps exist, typical villages were selected by the Collectors of districts. The Managers of such estates made over to the officers responsible for collection of rents the maps and khasrahs of such villages, and these latter officers, under the Manager's supervision, made a field-to-field inspection, noted the crops grown, and from the summation of areas of fields under each crop arrived at the totals for the selected villages.
- Estimates of the areas under the principal crops have been prepared by Collectors in recent years, and given in the forecasts of jute, wheat, rice, and in the reports of the estimated outturn of rabi and bhadoi crops.
- Certain statistics of areas under different crops were prepared by Mr. MacDonnell for some districts in 1876.
- After lengthened enquiry, estimates of the areas under each of the principal crops were prepared by the Board in 1868-69 and embodied in their Return XLIB.

2. The different sets of figures resulting from an examination of each of the sources of information above described under heads (a), (b) (c) were shown in printed slips for each district. These slips were circulated among district officers, who were requested, after careful consideration of the different sets of figures, and in light of their own local knowledge of their districts, to state approximately the probable areas cultivated and uncultivated, and under each of the more important crops in their several districts. When they had done this, the slips were sent to me, and after examination were, when manifestly incorrect, returned with my remarks to district officers for further examination and revision. The figures now furnished represent the result.

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5. The compilation and circulation of these returns will, it is hoped, lead district officers to give more attention to the subject, and thus in time fairly accurate figures may be furnished. Attention has been called in the column of remarks to manifest inaccuracies and discrepancies which may be corrected or explained in future returns.

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7. TABLE B—Gives the prices of certain articles on the last day of the year, as required by the Government of India.

8. TABLE C—Gives the incidence of revenue per acre on the land and per head of the population. It has not been possible to show, in all cases, the area not fully assessed, which, in the permanently-settled districts of Bengal, would consist for the most part of lakhiraj grants or resumed lakhiraj land settled at half rates (*nispahi*). This area is not very important. It has been given for some districts, but not for others. In future it is hoped it will be given for all districts. The population of the area not fully assessed cannot be given. The incidence of revenue is now given on the total area, but in future returns the incidence of revenue on the estimated area under cultivation, as shown in Table A, may be given. The incidence of

revenue per acre is, as might be expected, far higher in Government khas mehals than in permanently-settled estates.

9. It will be seen, that in only four districts of Bengal—Burdwan, Hooghly, Beerhoom, and Dinagepore—does the land revenue paid exceed one rupee per head of the population. In the districts of Pubna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Durbhanga, Chumparun, and Bhagulpore, it is four to five annas per head of the population; while in the Sonthal Pergunnahs and Chota Nagpore it is as low as one to two annas per head of the population, and is less than half an anna per acre of land. It may be well to bear these facts in mind in assessing rents in the approaching settlement of rents in Chota Nagpore and in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. The average incidence of land revenue in all Bengal excluding Darjeeling, for which no return has been received, is 9 annas 1 pie per head of the population and 8 annas per acre against R1-7-8 per head of the population and R1-0-9 per acre in the North-Western Provinces.

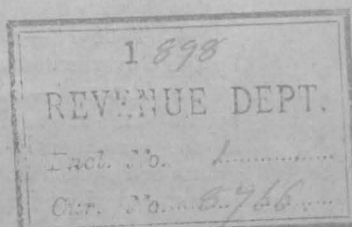
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14. The compilation of the returns now submitted has cost myself and my office great labour, and looked at from this point of view, I should be glad to discontinue them, and in future to confine the return of cropped areas to estates cadastrally surveyed; but it is the first step in the collection of agricultural statistics in Bengal which costs most, and now that a beginning has been made, it would, I think, be a matter for regret if they are to be discontinued. The mere effort to collect information as to the resources of districts and the areas under each crop is in itself useful as directing attention to these important questions, and, if persevered in, will, I believe, give fairly accurate figures within a limited period of years.



D 1,000-7-9-98.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

(C No. 8566)

From The Govt of India

No 3418-221-1 Dated 15th December 1898.

FOR ORDERS.

To Under Secy.

The Govt of India enquires whether this Govt is in a position to supply the figures for the Agricultural Statistics as regards the Zamindari area of the Presidency, the omission of which from the present returns detracts so largely from the value of these returns.

2. The Govt of India point out that under Act II of 1894 and the rules framed thereunder it should be possible to supply agricultural statistics for the Zamindari estates and for the Suram villages when the rules are extended to them. The Board has not yet submitted the notification.

20. 2. 7988 10.9.98

notification called for in para 2 of G.O. no. 798 of 20-9-97 in regard to the extension of the act to Munnichnago.

3. Attention is called in this connection to the notes under G.O. no. 755 of 7-12-98 in which the Board of Revenue has been called upon to submit a scheme for the employment of Circle Officers in Zamindari Districts.

4. It is submitted that before replying to India in the B. of Revue may be asked to report what progress has been made in the matter of the collection of statistical information in regard to Zamindaries.

W.P.
21/1/99

Secy

India's letter

may be sent to the Govt for Early report?

Mk

Hm

Send it to the Board for guidance in the formation of G.O. no 755 of 7-12-98. Awaiting small.

more matters - What we really want to know, and don't know, is that progress has been made under Act of 1894 towards bringing the Village establishments in proportion to the village control. India's letter requires a reply, and the Govt has the suggested disposal in mind. In forwarding the letter to the B. for report, I would ask the B. to explain briefly what progress has been made in the direction of collecting the required statistics, at least from those estates in the Province which must be made however small. Some were not built in a day - 8/1/99

To Under Secy

Please see Dept G.O. submitted below for approval

W.P.
21/1/99

Secy
23/1/99

mul
8/1/99

25 11/99

Communicated to the
Board of Recs for early report.

ML
 23/1/98
 SP 24/1/98

1/1/96 B. of Rem (R. S. L. L. A.)
1/1/96 per 27-1-99

21.1.89

12

C. No 8466

FILE No. 221 OF 1898.

SERIAL No. 1.

1898.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.



GENERAL.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPT.

No. 3418—221-1.

Dated Calcutta, the 15th December 1898.

367 *lin*
25-1-99

SUBJECT.

COLLECTION of Agricultural Statistics for the Zemindari area of the
Madras Presidency.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 470 R. & A.—17-12-98.—74.—Rose.

No. 3418—221-1.

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Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
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Inam villages, that rules have been framed by the Board and are in force in the same tract, and that the extension of the Act and rules to large Inam villages outside the tract is contemplated, if it has not been already effected. It should therefore, it is thought, be possible to supply agricultural statistics for the estates within which the Act and rules are in operation, and, for the Inam villages, estimates framed in the manner indicated in the letter addressed by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1050 of the 5th June 1891, a copy of which I am to enclose.

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10. TABLE D.—*Varieties of tenures held direct from Government*.—There are remarkable differences in the revenue rates per acre assessed at the permanent settlement on the different classes of estates. In some districts the great zemindari are more highly assessed than smaller estates, and in some the reverse is the case. These disparities are explained partly by differences in proportion of area under cultivation in different estates at the time of the permanent settlement, and partly by the fact that, as little was really known of the assets at that time, owners who bribed most liberally got off most lightly. A remarkable instance of high assessment is afforded in the Dinagore Raj, which was assessed at nearly a rupee an acre all round. The Collector was Manager of the property at the time, and knew the actual amount of the assets; hence the highness of the assessment. The rates of rent fixed at that time by the Settlement Officer, Mr. Hatch, are, I believe, in force up to the present day, and represent less than double the revenue. The Burdwan Raj is another instance of high assessment (Rs 1-8-6 per acre all round). The assessment was thought by the Maharaja at the time to be so high that he let out the greater part of the property in patni. The Durbhanga Raj is, on the other hand, an example of a great zemindari lowly assessed, the revenue rate being only 3 annas per acre, and the rent being now about sixteen times that amount. In the Sonthal Pergunnahs the revenue rate is about two annas per acre for the cultivated area in estates now under settlement, the rental being about twenty times that amount.

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13. LIVE-STOCK.—No statistics of live-stock are available. The Board are aware that surveys and records of right were until recent years very unpopular, and were looked upon with the utmost suspicion by all classes connected with land in Bengal. It was not on this account thought prudent to give any avoidable reason for giving grounds for such unpopularity, by collecting statistics of live-stock, even where surveys have been made and records of right prepared. If, however, the Board think it desirable to collect such statistics in future, they can be gathered.

14. The compilation of the returns now submitted has cost myself and my office great labour, and looked at from this point of view, I should be glad to discontinue them, and in future to confine the return of cropped areas to estates cadastrally surveyed; but it is the first step in the collection of agricultural statistics in Bengal which costs most, and now that a beginning has been made, it would, I think, be a matter for regret if they are to be discontinued. The mere effort to collect information as to the resources of districts and the areas under each crop is in itself useful as directing attention to these important questions, and, if persevered in, will, I believe, give fairly accurate figures within a limited period of years.

No. 1050 Agri., dated Calcutta, the 5th June 1891.

From—M. FINUCANE, Esq., C. S., *Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal,*

To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

WITH reference to your No. 884A., dated 19th August 1890, and previous correspondence, I have the honour to submit tables of agricultural statistics called for by the Government of India in the forms prescribed in their circular letter No. ^{81 Stats.} 13-4, dated 11th September 1888.

(1) TABLE A (*Forms A and B combined*).—This table purports to show the total area of each district, the cultivated and uncultivated area, and the area under each of the principal crops. The manner in which the figures entered in it have been compiled is as follows:—

- (a) In Wards' and Government estates, of which maps exist, typical villages were selected by the Collectors of districts. The Managers of such estates made over to the officers responsible for collection of rents the maps and khasrahs of such villages, and these latter officers, under the Manager's supervision, made a field-to-field inspection, noted the crops grown, and from the summation of areas of fields under each crop arrived at the totals for the selected villages.
- (b) Estimates of the areas under the principal crops have been prepared by Collectors in recent years, and given in the forecasts of jute, wheat, rice, and in the reports of the estimated outturn of rabi and bbadoi crops.
- (c) Certain statistics of areas under different crops were prepared by Mr. MacDonnell for some districts in 1876.
- (d) After lengthened enquiry, estimates of the areas under each of the principal crops were prepared by the Board in 1868-69 and embodied in their Return XLIB.

2. The different sets of figures resulting from an examination of each of the sources of information above described under heads (a), (b) (c) were shown in printed slips for each district. These slips were circulated among district officers, who were requested, after careful consideration of the different sets of figures, and in light of their own local knowledge of their districts, to state approximately the probable areas cultivated and uncultivated, and under each of the more important crops in their several districts. When they had done this, the slips were sent to me, and after examination were, when manifestly incorrect, returned with my remarks to district officers for further examination and revision. The figures now furnished represent the result.

3. Though any approach to accuracy cannot be claimed for the crop areas, yet it is believed that they are closer approximations to the truth than any figures hitherto compiled. Where district officers have an intimate knowledge of their districts, and prepare their estimates with care and examine them in the light of information available as to exports and imports from statistics of rail-borne and river-borne traffic, it is, I believe, possible for them to give tolerably correct estimates of the areas under different crops in their several districts. Where a railway passes through a district, a district officer can obtain statistics of all rail-borne exports from and imports to his district; and having regard to the requirements of local consumption can, I think, form a fairly correct notion of the relative importance of the several crops grown, and of the areas under each crop.

4. Though the figures now furnished are, it is believed, nearer to the truth than any hitherto compiled, yet a close examination of them will show that they cannot be relied on.

5. The compilation and circulation of these returns will, it is hoped, lead district officers to give more attention to the subject, and thus in time fairly accurate figures may be furnished. Attention has been called in the column of remarks to manifest inaccuracies and discrepancies which may be corrected or explained in future returns.

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