

THE  
BIHAR AND ORISSA  
FAMINE CODE  
1930



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Due to growing demand and shortage of supply of the "The Bihar and Orissa Famine Code" the Government of Bihar at the request of the Government of Orissa have given their assent for a reprint.

The book has been reprinted as it stood on 1. 4. 36—the date on which the Province of Orissa was created, and amendments made by the Government of Orissa up-to-date have been incorporated in this reprint.

*N. Senapati,*

Chief Secretary to Government of Orissa.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE need for revising the Bihar and Orissa Famine Code, 1913, has arisen mainly from three causes. Firstly, the greatly increased fluidity of labour has very markedly diminished the importance of organizing "works" for absorbing the labour thrown out of agricultural employment, as well as the efficiency of such works as a test of the intensity of distress. The problem has now shifted primarily to that of restoring agricultural activities as early as possible by the distribution of loans, and of providing for the support of unemployables, left temporarily destitute by the emigration of the able-bodied and by the drying up of private charity. Secondly, the Reforms have greatly diminished the concern of the Government of India in famine policy. Thirdly, the release, partial or complete, of district boards from control by the local officers of Government renders obsolete the portions of the Code, which defined the part that those bodies should play in famine relief. The Code has accordingly been revised to bring out in the earlier chapters the measures to be taken in what recent experience has shown to be normal development of distress in this province, relegating to the later chapters and appendices special activities suitable for abnormal calamities, approximating to the conditions of very severe famine, which the old Code was designed to meet. At the same time the instructions regarding floods have been elaborated, since recent experience is that distress is at least as frequently caused by such calamities as by droughts. The Code is framed as orders issuing from the local Government and not, like the 1913 Code as orders issuing from the Central Government. It is made clear that the responsibility for adequate relief measures rests wholly on Government and its subordinate officers. The local bodies may and should be invited to assist, and, if they so agree, definite spheres of work may be assigned to them. But it is the business of the local officers to see that such work is adequately performed, and to be ready to resume direct control if it is not.

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