

REPORT
OF
FAMINE OPERATIONS
IN THE
BARODA STATE

FOR THE YEAR 1911-12

BARODA

PRINTED AT THE TIMES PRESS, BOMBAY.

1913

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The Famine Commissioner, Baroda State, presents his compliments to the Editor, and begs to submit with the Report on Famine Relief in Baroda, a summary which may be found suitable for publication.

FAMINE RELIEF IN BARODA.

Among the many reports on famine relief operations in Western India in 1911-12, that dealing with Baroda State, which has just been published, must take a high place. It is unusually full and informing, and is illustrated with a number of photographs, which add considerably to its value. The author of it is Mr. Manubhai N. Mehta, who was appointed Famine Commissioner in October, 1911.

A sharp frost at the end of January 1911 did much damage throughout Baroda, and this catastrophe was followed by a failure of the monsoon—one district, Amreli, receiving as little as five-and-a-half inches, which is about 14 inches below the average for the past five years. The Kadi and Amreli districts—which have a population of over one million—were the worst sufferers, and there, as well as in the Baroda district, the crop-failure was more or less general. Among the first signs of impending distress was the southward immigration of cattle and the quick disappearance of the scanty stocks of fodder. In Amreli good buffaloes were “let loose with a billet tied round their necks intimating that the animal was abandoned and belonged to him who could maintain it.” Subsequent experience showed that the famine was one of fodder rather than of food. In October, after demands had been formulated by the district officers, the Council sanctioned Rs. 31,35,000 to be allotted under various heads for relief. Large amounts were also sanctioned by the District Local Boards. The signs of the coming famine were watched by the Famine Commissioner, who made repeated tours, and, in February, 1912, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb visited several of the afflicted districts to the great comfort of his people.

The relief measures may be classified as follows:—(a) Suspension and remission of land revenue, (b) Agricultural loans, (c) Drinking water supply, (d) Supply of fodder and cattle camps, (e) Relief works, and (f) Gratuitous relief. Suspensions were on a large scale, for only 43 villages could pay their normal dues, and the payment of arrears was suspended, with the exception of Tagavi arrears. “Tagavi advances,” says the Report, “have the sanctity of a debt

and cannot be suspended "without impairing the moral fibre of the debtor. . . . As a piece of moral strategy they have an invaluable use," and accordingly Rs. 14,30,000 were sanctioned for Tagavi, of which over 12 lakhs were advanced. A number of irrigational wells were sunk with the help of these loans. To improve the supply of drinking water, economy was enforced in Baroda City and nearly 400 wells were sunk in the State.

The supply of fodder gave the greatest difficulty. Surplus stocks had been sold and exported in good years, there was general unpreparedness for the famine, and requisitions for fodder were often misleading. Eventually the Baroda Government had to maintain fodder depots for the whole year, and distributed over 322 lakhs lbs. among the several districts, buying the fodder at rates varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 31-4-0 for 1,000 lbs. The net loss to Government on this—since they sold at a consistently cheap rate—amounted to over two lakhs of rupees. Private enterprise was unable to co-operate: an attempt was made but failed, owing to the shortage of wagons. "The wagon famine proved worse than the fodder famine. The Coronation Durbar at Delhi had diverted all available wagons to the north; and the grass merchants returned dejected and complaining about the utter impossibility to remove their grass consignments to Kadi. The Railway Officials had a roaring time, and the petty underlings a roaring trade in the supply of wagons; and the question of transporting our forest grass became one of serious moment." But the Famine Commissioner points out that it is doubtful whether that form of charitable relief can be long continued, observing that in British India a "proper line of demarcation was drawn between State relief and charitable relief, and the functions of each properly discriminated. With us in Baroda, both these functions devolved on Government in the absence of any large private charitable funds; and it is a question for consideration if the same policy can be wisely adopted again, should such a contingency unfortunately recur." A number of other problems connected with the sale of fodder are discussed, and, as a remedy for the wagon famine, it is suggested that the State should keep a locomotive and a few wagons in reserve to be run in times of difficulty on its own and foreign lines.

The deportation of cattle is pronounced to have been a failure, and a pathetic picture is drawn of the scene in the Vajpur forest, to which 100,000 cattle are said to have been driven. "Wild beasts in the forest revelled in the feast of cattle brought to their dens; and with Rabaris dead or dying, the cattle roamed from place to place falling victims to exhaustion to beasts of prey or to disease. A few Rabaris died of fever, and the whole class of Rabaris was thereupon seized with a mortal panic." Elsewhere foot and mouth disease and rinderpest caused many deaths, and of upwards of 7,000 ownerless

cattle received in the various camps only about 1,500 survived. The conclusion is that "if it is financially feasible to take the grass to the cattle, it is a much more effective means of saving the agricultural live-stock"; and it is a tribute to the Government's method of relief that in the Kadi and Amreli districts, where a census has been taken, the number of cattle decreased only by about 10 per cent. Thus a repetition of the fearful loss of cattle, which characterised the 1900 famine has been prevented.

Elaborate programmes of relief works had already been prepared, and about two-and-a-quarter lakhs were spent in carrying them out. Railway work was undertaken in Kadi and the Amreli district, and it was found that the average labourer prefers the ordinary contract wage to the subsistence wage paid on relief works. Irrigation works and road construction also formed part of the relief programme—the total daily average of persons relieved being 8,240. Gratuitous relief up to Rs. 12,436 was given; and, among the points of general interest in the section of the Report dealing with relief, it should be noted that the Compulsory Education Act was not formally suspended, but leave facilities were liberally given and fines were kept in abeyance for a time. A Social Service League was started by the students at Baroda College and did valuable work.

Timely rains saved the situation, and it is confidently anticipated that a few good seasons will repair the damage done. The famine had no appreciable effect on the health of the people or on the criminal statistics. There was a heavy loss of cows but not of plough cattle: the area under cultivation has but slightly declined. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 20,73,299—less than half the amount spent in 1900 and more than double what was spent in 1905. Three-fourths of this amount is covered by Tagavi advances alone, and when it is remembered that a large percentage of these agricultural loans is recovered in the end, the net total expenditure may be regarded as not exceeding 5 lakhs. The supervision charges work out to only one-and-a-half per cent. The Report concludes with a number of suggestions for the future guidance of the State, emphasizing the necessity of storing fodder reserves and suggesting means by which this may be done with the help of Co-operative Credit Societies.

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FAMINE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
BARODA, 31st December 1912.

To

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA GAEKWAD SENA KHAS KHEL,
Samsher Bahadur, G.C.S.I.,
BARODA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS,

I most respectfully beg to submit a Report of the Famine Relief operations undertaken throughout the affected districts of the Raj during the year 1911-12 to prevent and alleviate the general distress caused by the widespread drought which overtook Your Highness' Dominions during the year.

I beg to remain,
Your Highness' most obedient Servant,
MANUBHAI N.,
Famine Commissioner.

Through HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER.

APPENDIX A.

(SEE SECTION 153 OF THE REPORT.)

શ્રી હુ. કા. ક. હુ. ખા. ખા. હુ. હુ. નો અંક.
હુજુર હુકમ. $\frac{A}{X}$

શ્રીમંત સરકાર મહારાજ સાહેબની સ્વારી અમરેલી પ્રાંતમાં હુકાળ સ્થિતિ જેવા પધારી તે વખતે
હુકાળ કામો ઉપરના અમરેલી તાલુકામાં જળીયા તળાવ, ધારી તાલુકામાં જીરારોડ, તથા દામનગર તાલુકામાં
લોકિના ખોરાકના પ્રમાણ કુંબનાથ તળાવ તથા ધામેલ પાસે ફાટસર તળાવના રીલીફ કામોની શ્રીમંત સરકારે
બદલ તપાસ માટે નીચેની મુલાકાત લીધી. તે વેળા હુકાળના મજુરોની સ્થિતિ જે કે સારી જેવામાં આવી તે-
કમીટી. મજુરો હાલ અપાતી રોજ તેમની તંદુરસ્તી ટકાવી રાખવા પુરતી છે કે કેમ? તેમના ખોરાકમાં શાકભાજી
તથા મીઠું મશાલો ખરીદવા રોજમાં વધારો કરવાની જરૂર છે કે કેમ તે વિગેરે પ્રશ્નો સંબંધી અખતરા કરી
કેટલીક હકીકત એકત્ર કરવા ઇષ્ટ જણાયાથી નીચેના ગ્રહરથોની કમીટી નીમવામાં આવે છે :—

રા. રા. મણીરાયક ત્રીકમરાય જોશીપુરા, પ્રમુખ.

૧. રા. રા. અરદેસર નવરોજી, એકઝીક્યુટીવ ઇનજીનીયર.
૨. રા. રા. અરદેસર ડોસાભાઈ કુપર, સેનીટરી કમીશનર.
૩. રા. રા. નામદેવરાવ કદમ, પીલખાના કામદાર.
૪. રા. રા. હરિસિંગ, રેલ્વે એકઝીક્યુટીવ ઇનજીનીયર.

૨. આ કમીટીએ નીચેના પ્રશ્નો સંબંધી તપાસ કરી હકીકત એકત્ર કરી હમારી તરફ નિવેદન
કમીટીએ વિચાર કરવાના પ્રશ્નો. મોકલવું :—

- (૧) હુકાળ શમનના નિયમ પ્રમાણે પુરૂષને ૨૧ શેર, સ્ત્રીને ૧૧૧ શેર, કામ કરનાર
છોકરાને ૧૧ શેર, અશક્ત પુરૂષને ૧૧ શેર, સ્ત્રીને ૧૧ શેર, તથા બાળકને ૦૧૧ શેર-
થી ૧ શેર; આશ્રીત વર્ગ પૈકી પુરૂષને ૧૧ શેર, સ્ત્રીને ૧ શેર, બાળકને ૦૧ શેરથી
૦૧૧ શેર અનાજ મળી શકે છે.

આ પ્રમાણે ખોરાકનું પ્રમાણ યોગ્ય છે કે તેમાં વધારો કરવાની જરૂર છે ?

આ પ્રશ્નોના વિચાર થવા સારૂ સાધારણ ગરીબ માણસોને ત્યાં રસોઇનો સામાન ખરોખર તપાસી
એક આદમી દીઠ કેટલું અનાજ રાંધવામાં આવે છે તેનો પણ પાંચ સાત ઘેર જઈ તપાસ કરવો.

વળી એક વજન લેવાનું યંત્ર મંગાવી એક મજુરને અમુક પ્રમાણમાં ખોરાક આપી તેનું દરરોજનું
વજન લેવાની નોંધતા જવું કે તેનું પરીણામ રોજના રોજ જણી શકાય અને ખોરાકનું પ્રમાણ વધારવા સવક
રહે. આવા પ્રયોગ દસ પંદર જુદા જુદા વર્ગના સ્ત્રી, પુરૂષો, આશ્રિત તથા બાળકોમાં કરી જેના કાઠીયાવાડમાં
સારી તંદુરસ્તી રાખવા વધારે ખોરાકની ટેવ હોય છે તેનો પણ વિચાર કરી પ્રમાણમાં સુધારો વધારો સૂચવવો.

- (૨) હાલ જે મજુરોને કોઠો પરીશિષ્ટ જમાં આપ્યો છે તે માત્ર અનાજનું જ પ્રમાણ આપી
કોઠો બતાવ્યો છે. તેમાં શાકભાજી, મીઠું, મરચું, વિગેરે મશાલાનો સમાવેશ કર્યો
નથી. તે પ્રમાણે શાકભાજી માટે સાધારણ વખતમાં ગરીબ મજુરના કુટુંબમાં
માણસ દીઠ શો ખર્ચ દરરોજનો સરાસરી આવે છે તેનું પ્રમાણ કાઠવું. અને
તેટલી વધારે રકમ શાકભાજી માટે આપવા સારૂ ખોરાક (અનાજ)ના પ્રમાણમાં
કેટલો વધારો કરવો તે પણ નક્કી કરવું. પરિશિષ્ટ પ્રમાં અનગૃહમાં માણસને
આપવાના સીધાનું પ્રમાણ આપ્યું છે તેને અનુસરીને અનાજ, શાકભાજી તથા
મશાલો મળી કેટલું સીધું (કેટલા તોલા) સ્ત્રી, પુરૂષ, બાળક, આશ્રિત વિગેરે
(અશક્ત સાથે) મજુરને આપવું તેનું પ્રમાણ નક્કી કરવું. સીધાના પ્રમાણ નક્કી
કરવાનો અનુભવ મી. નામદેવરાવ કદમને છે તેમણે પોતાના અનુભવનો લાભ આ
કામમાં આપવો.

- (૩) કોઠો રેલ્વે સડક કે જ્યાં વધારે મજુરો મળે છે ત્યાં જવા પ્રસંદ કરે છે કે રીલીફ
કામ ઉપર? જે રીલીફ કામો ઉપર રહેવા ઇતેજર હોય તે તેનાં કારણો. તથા
રેલ્વેના કામ ઉપર જવા ખુશી વધારે હોય તે તેની મજુરોનો મુકાબલો તથા ખર્ચ
જાતના કામ ઉપર દર ૧૦૦ ધન દુટે કેટલો ભાવ સરકારને આપવો પડે છે તેના
નફા ઘટાનો મુકાબલો અને જાતના કામના સંબંધમાં બતાવવો.

ઉપરના ત્રણે પ્રશ્નો સંબંધી ઉપયુક્ત માહિતી સાથે ઉપરની કમીટીએ નિવેદન હમારી તરફ મોકલવું.

(Sd.) MANUBHAI N.,

Famine Commissioner,

વાર્યા ૩૧ મી માર્ચ ૧૯૧૨.

No. 571 of 1911-12.

AMRELI SUBAH'S OFFICE,
AMRELI, 14th May 1912.

To

THE FAMINE COMMISSIONER,
BARODA.

SIR,

We have the honour to submit the following report as per Huzur order, dated the 31st March last:—

(1). **Commencement of Experiments.**—These experiments were commenced upon the labourers on the Kumbanath relief work on the 2nd April 1912 and finished on 17th April 1912. The commencement was made by three of us, *viz.*:—Messrs. Ardeshar N. (Executive Engineer), Ardeshar D. Cooper (Sanitary Commissioner) and Namdevrao Kadam (Peelkhana Kamdar). The full Committee was present the day they were finished.

(2). **Castes selected.**—Members of the Koli, Kunbi, Rajputs, Bharvad and Kumbhar castes principally were selected, and were formed into three different gangs. In each gang, there were adult males and females, working children as well as non-working children. These labourers were given cooked food.

(3). **Scales of rations.**—The following table shows the scales of rations for these various gangs:—

Unit served.	Gang No. 1.		Gang No. 2.		Gang No. 3.	
	Sers.	Tolas.	Sers.	Tolas.	Sers.	Tolas.
Adult Male	2	20	2	10	2	.....
Adult Female	2	.....	1	30	1	20
Working Child	1	15	1	10	1	5
Non-working Child ... ..	.....	20	.....	20	.....	20

Notes—One pice to each unit was given for vegetables and condiments.

(4). **Variations in the scale of rations.**—From this it appears that the same rate has been maintained in case of non-working children, for the very good reason that they have simply to play and eat and have not to work. When a reduction of 5 tolas is made for each successive gang in case of working children, a reduction of 10 tolas is resorted to in case of adults. As these classes have to toil and work, the reduction was arranged to see what effect it produced upon them. Another thing to be noted in this connection is that the scale arranged for the third gang was just the scale fixed by the Famine Code in Schedule 77, as 1 pice was added to the quantity of food given.

(5) **Results of the ration scales.**—The results as noted show that the members of the gang No. 1 were not able to consume the whole quantity of food provided and a tangible portion always remained behind unused. In other words there was a superfluity. Members of the second gang showed the same results but to a smaller extent. In this gang it was observed that two had become sick of diarrhoea, *i. e.*, of indigestion. So here also superfluity was observable. Whereas the members of the third gang consumed almost the whole food provided, though it must be admitted that sometimes some remnant was left. In short, though in this case also the whole food was not consumed, the remaining quantity was not so great as can be called a superfluity. The whole stock prepared would have been consumed and perhaps some would have had sometimes to remain satisfied with a little less than what he actually wanted to eat.

(6) **Conclusion from weights taken.**—Before these experimental operations were commenced, the weights of these men were taken and registered as ordered. Weights were also taken from time to time and noted. A copy of this is attached herewith. A careful study of these notes shows that the persons experimented upon have not responded to the quantity of food given. All have not maintained their first weights ; some have declined under favourable conditions even. In short the weights have freakishly varied. Therefore we have arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the weights are no certain indications to the quantity of food to be given and are consequently of no use in fixing it for the various units forming the famine labour. In this connection, perhaps, it may be said that the time was too short for arriving at the right conclusion.

(7) **Conclusions from photographs taken.**—Photographs have also been taken of these men ; they too, like weights, do not supply us with any data to form conclusions. The appearance and physical condition of the labourers of all the three classes have neither improved nor deteriorated perceptibly. They looked just the same on 17th April 1912 as they did on 2nd April 1912.

(8) **Daily dietary of the labouring classes.**—We have ascertained that the poor, *i. e.*, the labouring classes of these parts have their daily dietary arranged somewhat as follows :—

Bread of bajri or jowar.

Pulse of udid, boiled, or vegetables.

Chutney made of dhana, chillies, garlic and salt.

Chhasha which they readily procure fresh, free of charge, from their well-to-do neighbours.

This is generally the course during the day ; sometimes any of the things may be absent from their frugal board. In the evening their appetite is satisfied with bread and chutney or simply bread and a piece or two of green chillies or onions. As a rule, ghee and rice are not used by these people. Sometimes they prepare *khichadi* in which for ghee they put in oil. Such is the food of the labouring classes during ordinary time. The question now is what should it be on relief works ?

(9) **Convictions from the study of the above results.**—A careful study of these results has convinced us that the rations tried in the case of gangs Nos. 1 and 2 are out of the question, and that the rates prescribed in Schedule 77 of the Famine Code are just sufficient for the labourers on relief works, *i.e.*, they have no scope for savings, for utilization in cases of extreme need even. But the following factors appear to us to be not unimportant in a study of these rates :—

- (a) On two holidays on every month enjoined by the Code, the labourers are not given these working wages but almost half.
- (b) In cases of parents having more than two non-working children, their daily earnings per head on an average are to some extent reduced.
- (c) When adults become sick, they are paid at the rate of only one anna per day.
- (d) In cases of extreme necessity provision for clothing has to be made, if not for them, at least for their children and infants.
- (e) In cases when small-pox, etc., breaks out, parents are obliged to maintain their children from out of their pittance.
- (f) Young children from 7 to 12 years of age cannot be expected to devote constantly to labour, as this is the period of life they would have devoted to play, but for the famine, and so they generally fail to do the whole task work.

The result is a reduction in family earnings.

The result of the working of these causes when spread over a month or over the whole famine period, naturally leads to a reduction in the rations fixed by the Famine Code, that is, in other words, a fair slice is taken away from the wages which are just sufficient. This forced necessity to economise compels the labourers to deny themselves vegetables, salts and condiments, so very necessary for health. Consequently it is that we see a majority of labourers broken down in health at the end of a famine and in such a state of health, as to fall easy prey to any prevailing disease, and specially diseases connected with the alimentary canal, stomach intestines or bowels.

Therefore not only on grounds of humanity but also in the interest of policy, more generous consideration is necessary to be shown to these people, because the whole wealth of a country and community is a result of their labour. But at the same time it should not be forgotten that at a time, when everybody wants help from the State in some form or another, the body politic cannot afford to be too generous. In the first place, the finances will not permit it, and secondly undue generosity has a tendency to bring on demoralization which is perhaps a greater evil than the one we are dealing with.

(10) **Recommendation for an addition of one pice to the existing rations.**—Therefore we recommend that an addition of one pice for each adult worker, both male and female, should be made to the rations prescribed in Schedule 77 of the Famine Code. We do not think it advisable to turn this extra pice into grain inasmuch as a tangible portion thereof will be lost to the persons whom

it is proposed to benefit. They cannot procure vegetables, condiments and some clothing with ease, and even if it is made possible for them to do so, they would proportionately get less in the barter. Then again it would be very inconvenient for them to store their extra stock of grain as they are not only away from their homes but also from their villages.

(11) Schedule 80 of the Famine Relief Code consists of rations to be given to the inmates of kitchen to be provided by the State for the poor. The scale fixed therein is as under :—

	Male.	Female.	CHILDREN.	
			Above 7 yrs.	Below 7 yrs.
	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.
Grain	41	33	25	15
Pulse	5	4	3½	3½
Salt	1½	1	¾	¾
Ghee or Oil	1½	1	½	½
Spices	1½	1	½	½
Total ...	50, or 1½ seer.	40, or 1 seer.	30, or ¾ seer.	20, or ½ seer.

Rations to the inmates of the kitchen scrutinized.—Our attention is arrested at the very first glance to the fact that the total of the various items which is given as 1½ seer of jowar for adult males, is right, so far as the total of the figures is concerned, but is erroneous so far as the values of various items are concerned. Because 5 tolas of spices, oil, etc., can never equal 5 tolas of jowar in value, for the very simple reason that the latter cannot purchase the former. Therefore, we think it necessary to convert these 5 tolas in jowar value. The various items and the weights, however, may continue to be the same as they are; because they are intended not for workers but for dependents and sick, and therefore ought not to be on the same scale as is prescribed for the workers. This conversion we recommend should be ¾ seer of jowar in case of adults and ½ in case of children, because we have satisfied ourselves that this extra quantity will enable the kitchen authorities to purchase the various items prescribed.

(12) **Comparison of rates on Railway and Famine works.**—As desired by the Huzur order under notice, we have got prepared by the Railway Executive Engineer and the Civil Executive Engineer a comparative statement of rates for similar work and similar quantity turned out by labourers on Railway and Famine works respectively. A glance at it will show that the rates for the Civil Engineering Department are lower than those for the Railway. But at the same time it must be said that the difference is not very great. Even this difference narrows down when we take into account the fact of low wages as compared to the wages given in ordinary times as well as the fact that the Government has to maintain for relief workers extra Civil and Medical establishments. Looking at this difference from another point, we arrive at the same conclusion. Railway work is generally done by contract, and therefore the excess that appears is properly speaking the profit of the contractors.

Therefore it will not be looked upon illogical, if we say that the rates for Railway work would be the same as for relief works, if the Railway work was done Departmentally. This reasoning leads us to the conclusion that in the case of ordinary relief, Government is a gainer in famine times is erroneous.

(13) **Reluctance of people to go on Railway work and reasons for the same.**— People in general prefer Relief work to Railway work. The workers on the Jalia Tank in the Amreli Taluka have submitted a petition to the Suba to the effect that they were not willing to go to Zhar on Railway earthwork. On inquiry we find the following to be the chief reasons for preferring Relief work :—

- (a) Payment on the Railway work is by a private individual, whereas it is by a Government official on Relief works. This payment through a middleman, is believed by the people to be not, strictly honest.
- (b) Dependants and sick persons are not maintained on Railway work.
- (c) Holidays are not given on Railway works. If the labourers absent themselves on any day, they are not paid anything on Railway work ; whereas twice a month on holidays, wages are given to the labourers on Relief works without taking any work.
- (d) Huts and watering facilities are not provided on Railway work at Railway expense, whereas they are provided to the labourers on Relief works by Government at its expense.

Therefore we are of opinion that Railway work should in Famine times be undertaken as a Relief work and not as a piecework as is at present done.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

MANIRAI T.

ARDESHIR NOWROJI.

NAMADEORAO KADAM.

A. D. COOPER.

No. 2701 of 1911-12.

MEMO.

The accompanying Report prepared by the Amreli Famine Dietary Committee, appointed under Huzur orders, should be submitted to His Highness the Maharaja Saheb for information.

The results of experiments made fully bear out the adequacy of the Relief diet now adopted in our Code, and recommended by Sir Antony Macdonell's Commission. The quantity of food recommended by that Commission was based upon actual experiments and medical testimony and the results of our experiments have fully substantiated them.

THE WAGE :—Table appended to our Code provides for the labourers as under:—

	Code provision.	Supplied by the Dietary Committee.
Adult Male... ..	90 Tolas.	80 Tolas.
Adult Female	70 "	60 "
Working Child	50 "	45 "

The Committee thus reduced the rations by 10 tolas in the case of adults and 5 tolas in the case of children and allowed one pice extra for vegetables, condiments, &c.

This quantity of grain, the Committee found quite sufficient to keep the labourers in a healthy state. More, they found, was injurious, as it brought on indigestion and diarrhoea. The reduced rations with one pice worth of vegetables worked very well.

Our Code wage is given in cash. The system recommended by the Committee would work well in a kitchen or where the wages were given in the shape of grain doles. But where they are given in cash, the Code contemplates that the labourers would set apart a pice or half-a-pice for onions, oil, &c., and would not use the whole amount for grain. So much grain is not really needed. It is, therefore, not necessary and hardly convenient to set apart one pice and give it earmarked for vegetables, when the whole amount is given in cash.

The Famine Code provides for bare maintenance; any extras, special diet, clothing, etc., can only be provided for from private charitable funds.

The present report will be incorporated in the Famine Report for 1911-12, as it will be an interesting contribution to the Famine literature. Early in 1899 the relief wage was less by 10 tolas, but the sagacity of His Highness had perceived that the wage was insufficient for bare subsistence, and the wage since revised has been confirmed by the Famine Commission for 1901, and receives further support from the present experiments made by the Committee.

AMRELI, 3rd June 1912.

(Sd.) MANUBHAI N.,
Naeb-Dewan and Famine Commissioner.

The rest-day or holiday wage is equal to the dependants' dole and cannot be equal to the full-working day wage. Though there is meaning in this distinction, the Huzur may approve of the full wage being given for the rest-day, as the Committee seems to recommend, purely out of humane considerations.

(Sd.) M. N.

OPINION.

No. 20 OF 1911-12.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER'S OFFICE,
BARODA, 29th July 1912.

1. **Worthless experiments.**—The experiments of the Committee are in my opinion worthless.

2. **Pulse-free diet which the Committee tried is deficient in nutritive value.**—The Code wage is admittedly given in cash, with the intention of enabling the people to buy therewith sufficient food, and naturally the food they would endeavour to get would be similar to their usual diet. The Committee tells us the usual diet of the men at home, consisting of cereal, pulse and other articles of food, and in their experiments they feed the men on a pulse-free diet, such as the men would not get of themselves, and about which there is not the slightest doubt that it is deficient in nutritive value. In order to derive from grain alone the nitrogenous constituents necessary for the nutrition of the body, it would have to be ingested in such large quantities that the human organism would be unable to deal with.

3. **Cash value of pulse as compared with that of cereals.**—As a rule, pulse is obtainable at double the rate of grain, sometimes even less than double if we deal with bajri instead of jowar ; but in my calculations I assume that the cash value of one ounce of pulse equals that of two ounces of grain.

4. **What a man will get in the value of 36 ozs.**—It will be found that, if the man is given in cash the value of 36 oz. of grain, he will be able to get himself food constituted as such :—

			Cereal Value.
Cereal 16-20 oz. ... ..	...	...	oz. 16-20
Pulse 6½- 5 oz. ... ..	...	...	13-10
Oil, Salt, Condiments ... ..	...	...	7- 6
Total ... 36 oz. ...			36 oz.

5. **The proposed diet approximates the standard diet.**—The cash value of 7 or 6 oz. of cereal is quite sufficient to enable the man to get enough oil—salt, and in addition condiments, garlic or vegetables—such as to relieve the monotony of his diet, while the amount of pulse and cereal combined approximates the standard diet fixed for hard work by Indian dietary experts.

6. **The Code wage affords more liberal diet.**—Again, if we are to believe in the figures given by the Committee for the usual constituents of the men's food at home, and these figures are for cooked food which when uncooked weighs about one-third part less, it will be found that the Code wage affords the men a more liberal diet than they are accustomed to at home.

7. **A recommendation to raise the scale of diet of moderate workers and non-workers by 4 oz. of grain.**—No experiments seem to have been made with reference to the diets for moderate work and for bare sustenance. On similar calculations as above, I find that they are barely sufficient for proper nutrition. It would be preferable to apply the diet for moderate workers to non-workers, and raise that of moderate workers by equivalent of 4 oz. grain.

8. **The kitchen diet to be raised in its constituents accordingly.**—Similarly the kitchen diet should also be raised in its constituents, and made equal in cerea lvalue to that fixed for moderate worker in Schedule 77 of the Famine Code instead of the bare sustenance diet.

9. **It is not necessary to add 1 pice to the wages fixed for hard workers.**—As for the recommendations of the Committee, I do not find it necessary, for the sake of maintenance only, to add one pice to the wage fixed for hard workers in Schedule 77. If any addition is to be made, I would prefer it to be in favour of moderate workers and non-workers as suggested above, especially in the case of children who require relatively more nitrogenous food than adults for purposes of growing up.

10. **A recommendation to alter the holiday wage.**—Strictly speaking a man not doing hard work on holidays requires only the non-worker's diet, but as the holiday only occurs twice a month and the men would probably feel the difference of a greatly reduced diet, he may be given the full Code wage or the present practice may only be altered in favour of the hard worker in giving him on a holiday the moderate worker's diet instead of bare sustenance.

11. **If diets are thus changed, the Code wage need not be increased as shown in report, para. 9.**—As for the other reason brought forward for increasing the Code wage for adult workers by one pice (para. 9 of report)—

- (a) **Then parents need not help feeding non-working children.**—If diets are changed as suggested above, non-working children will have a sufficiency, and parents will not have to help feeding them out of their pittance.
- (b) **Sick adults would get non-worker's or kitchen diet.**—Sick adults would get the raised non-worker's diet or the raised kitchen diet.
- (c) **Clothing to be met from charity funds.**—Clothing, etc., should be met from charity funds.
- (d) **No mention in the Code of parents and children not getting non-worker's diet when epidemic breaks out.**—There is no mention in the Code of parents and children not getting the non-worker's diet when small-pox, etc., breaks out.
- (e) **Children's diet would be improved.**—Children's diet would be improved by adopting the raised diet.

12. **Thus by raising the diets more good would be done and evenly distributed.**—Generally by raising the diets for moderate work and for bare susten-

ance more good would be done and would be more evenly distributed than by giving one pice more to a hard worker, who in one case may have a large family to support, while in another case he would have only himself to look after.

13. **In Famine Railways be undertaken as Relief Work.**—Forming my opinion on the statements of the Committee, I concur in recommending that in Famine times railway works should be undertaken as a Government Relief work.

(Sd.) C. A. L. MAYER,
Chief Medical Officer, Baroda State.

H. K. K. D. O. No. A/6.

HUZUR ORDER.

Re: cash value of the diet.—A list of articles with their weight necessary to constitute the diet of a healthy person should be drawn up and given in the Famine Code with their money equivalent. It is understood that the cash value of the articles works out at a little less than the rate of wages paid under the existing rules.

2. **Re: wage for the holiday.**—The recommendation to pay the full wage for the holiday is sanctioned.

3. **Undertaking Railway work in Famine times.**—Mr. Manubhai should make a note of, and give due consideration at the proper time to the suggestion about undertaking railway work as a Government Relief work in Famine times.

4. **Studying question of the food.**—Dr. Mayer and his subordinates should study the question of food of the people, so that they may be in a position to advise Government on the subject whenever necessary.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb has been pleased to pass the above order to-day.

9th September 1912.

(Sd.) G. B. AMBEGAOKAR,
Huzur Kamdar.

No. 435.

HUZUR CATCHERRY,
BARODA, 18th September 1912.

True copy, with all the papers connected with the Huzur Order, forwarded to the Famine Commissioner for information and guidance.

By Order,
(Sd.) M. C. DESAI,
Superintendent.