

Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

G. O. No. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, dated 26th February 1924.

Administration Report of the Revenue Department.

Reviews the ——— for the year 1922-23.

READ—

The Report on the Administration of the Revenue Department for the year 1922-23 received with the Revenue Commissioner's Letter No. C. Per. A. 91, dated the 10th October 1923.

(Printed as Annexure.)

ORDER NO. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1924.

The year under report was a fairly prosperous one. The rainfall in the State was 34·07 inches as against the average of 38·07 for a period of 30 years, and except in Shimoga, was fairly well distributed. In parts of the Kolar District, the holding off of the September rains created a certain amount of anxiety but the heavy rains of early October eased the situation. The extent of cultivation under the principal crops showed an increase and their out-turn also was fair. Prices of agricultural produce showed a still further downward tendency from the abnormal conditions that prevailed during the period of the War. There were adequate supplies forthcoming in all the markets. Public health was generally satisfactory.

2. The extent of assessed waste lands taken for cultivation during the year was 56,453 acres which was 22,088 acres more than in the previous year. This was due in a large measure to the special arrangements made by Government to expedite the disposal of available lands for cultivation and to provide suitable lands from reserves and kavals in areas where a sufficient extent of land was not available. A Special Officer was appointed for this purpose. He visited 23 taluks and after examining the Darkhast Registers gave instructions for the speedy disposal of pending darkhasts. He inspected the Amrut Mahal kavals surrendered from time to time for cultivation in recent years and selected such portions of them as were fit for cultivation for immediate disposal. He also inspected Amrut Mahal kavals in areas where there was a demand for cultivable lands and selected suitable blocks for being thrown open for cultivation. The total extent of Amrut Mahal kaval and other lands thus newly thrown open for cultivation as a result of his efforts was 8,481 acres which fetched a price of Rs. 2,12,696, inclusive of cesses.

Government must however observe that the progress made in the disposal of pending darkhasts is still very far from satisfactory. The number of darkhasts disposed of during the year was no doubt larger than in the previous year, but the number of darkhasts for land during the year (17,670) was also more than in the previous year (11,814). The number of darkhasts pending at the end of the year was more than that at the beginning of the year being 7,910 against 7,748 and it is therefore obvious that in spite of special instructions given by Government the Revenue Department did not dispose of even the number of darkhasts that was received during the year. Both from the report of the Special Officer who had an opportunity of

No. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1924.

studying the conditions all over the State and from the numerous representations that have reached Government from time to time from the people, Government are convinced that there is a fairly large demand for cultivable lands and it is therefore necessary that the Revenue Department should take special steps to see that this demand is fully satisfied. The preparation and notification of A & B lists according to the Government Order No. R. 7150-9—L. R. 181-21-53, dated the 20th June 1922, on the speedy disposal of darkhasts for assessed lands does not appear to have been completed in several districts. This is far from satisfactory. The Revenue Commissioner should investigate the matter fully and submit a report showing the taluks in which the work has not yet been attended to. A separate Government Order has been issued on the work done by the Special Officer. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to take early steps for the disposal of the Amrut Mahal kaval lands yet available and to expedite the disposal of the pending darkhasts.

It is unsatisfactory to note that out of an area of 1,893 acres and 27 guntas of Amrut Mahal kaval lands reserved for disposal at concession rates to depressed classes only an extent of 4 acres and 34 guntas was granted in Tumkur District, and 24 acres and 24 guntas in the Chitaldrug District, while no lands were granted in the Districts of Hassan and Kadur. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to see that these lands are disposed of promptly and that the applications received from the members of the depressed classes are not kept pending indefinitely. A special report on the action taken in this respect should be submitted to Government by the end of March 1924.

During the year under review 5 Mojinidars phoded an extent of 4,507 acres 24 guntas in the Mysore, Kadur, Kolar and Shimoga Districts. Sub-Division work. Besides this, District Surveyors and Shekdars did some work under this head. The total extent phoded by the District Surveyors and Shekdars of Tumkur, Shimoga and Kadur Districts was 2,137 acres 3 guntas and no work was done in Chitaldrug District. The other Deputy Commissioners have not reported the work done by these officers in their districts. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue instructions to the Deputy Commissioners to see that the District Surveyors and Shekdars are fully made use of for this work, progress in which has been unsatisfactory. This is largely due to the selection of superannuated men who are permitted to work in this branch of the District Offices. This defect should be rectified without delay.

3. The area relinquished during the year was 22,143 acres as against 20,100 acres in the previous year. The explanation offered for this Relinquishments. increase in the area relinquished, that it was due to the seasonal conditions of the year, is obviously incorrect in view of the generally satisfactory conditions of the year. In their view on the report for 1921-22, Government directed that the reasons for the increase in relinquishments should be carefully investigated by the Revenue Commissioner and a special report submitted to Government. It is not clear that action has been taken by the Revenue Commissioner on this matter. He is requested to submit a full report on this question within a month.

4. The total area under occupation was 7,903,994 acres and the net extent under Area under cultivation. crops was 6,119,959 acres. These figures are considerably in excess of those of the previous year. It is satisfactory to note that the areas under ragi, jola, sugar-cane and cotton, have shown substantial increases. The area under sugar-cane has increased by nearly 5,779 acres and that under cotton by 21,182 acres. The out-turn of crops was however slightly less than in the previous year. It is gratifying to note that 16 anna crops were secured in certain taluks of Mysore, Shimoga, Chitaldrug and Kolar Districts.

5. Out of 99 applications dealt with under the Large Landed Estates Scheme, Large Landed Estates Scheme. 6 were granted and 34 were rejected, leaving 59 pending at the close of the year. The progress made in the working of the scheme has been inappreciable.

6. An extent of 406 acres 19 guntas was sanctioned under the scheme during Military Settlement Scheme. the year. The number of applications pending at the close of the year in Bangalore, Mysore, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts was 126, the pendency being heaviest in Bangalore where 89 were pending. The delay in the disposal of these applications is very unsatisfactory.

No. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1924.

7. Government view with concern the report that the total number of deaths of cattle from all causes during the year under report was 72,970 as against 51,162 in the previous year. The increase is largest under accidents and other causes. The statistics under cattle mortality require greater scrutiny and village officers should be instructed to report promptly outbreaks of cattle diseases to the veterinary officers on pain of severe punishment. The report of the Veterinary Department shows that the total number of inoculation done was 95,904 in all the districts. It is necessary to maintain correct statistics to show the cause of such a heavy mortality of cattle so as to minimise the loss as far as possible by adequate preventive measures.

8. The total area included in the blocks at the beginning of the year was 12,172 acres 33 guntas. The net increase during the year was 186 acres 17 guntas, the total extent in the blocks at the end of the year being 12,359 acres and 10 guntas. The demand for the year was Rs. 84,241-15-11 including the balance of Rs. 3,984-0-2 of the previous year. Out of this a sum of Rs. 79,034-10-1 was collected including remissions leaving a balance of Rs. 5,207-5-10. The work of collection cannot be considered as satisfactory. Full information has not been furnished in regard to the actual extent and unauthorisedly irrigated within the block area. Government have noticed that the restrictions of the block system have not been observed by the raiyats and that consequently there has been much avoidable waste of water. One of the important objects with which the block system of irrigation was introduced, was to increase the duty of water and if extensive unauthorised irrigation goes on as at present there will be not only waste of water but much loss of revenue as well. The Deputy Commissioner should be requested to submit a detailed report on the subject and also to take steps to see that unauthorised use of water for cultivation within the blocks is checked by imposition of adequate penal water rate.

9. The settlement of jamabandi was commenced fairly early in all the districts except in Chitaldrug District where the work was not completed before the commencement of the collection season. The greatest delay as in the previous year was in the Hassan District. The average duration for a taluk was the shortest in the Mysore District. Government desire to emphasise the importance of completing jamabandi work well in advance of the date when the collections fall due. It does not appear that the work is done in as methodical and efficient a manner as is necessary. The settlement of the jamabandi affords superior revenue officer a good opportunity of coming into touch with the people in their charges and to study their requirements and grievances. It is therefore essential that the work should be done at leisure after detailed inspection of the villages in the interior. The question of improving jamabandi work has recently engaged the active consideration of Government and instructions have been issued in Government Order No. 3825-33—L. R. 154-22-40, dated the 13th February 1924, to bring about the necessary improvement.

10. The arrears of Land Revenue including miscellaneous at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 10,74,727. The demand for the year was Rs. 1,19,69,873. The total demand to be collected during the year was thus Rs. 1,30,44,600 as against Rs. 1,28,25,663 in the year 1921-22. The net recoverable demand excluding remissions was Rs. 1,29,68,358. The total amount that was collected during the year was Rs. 1,19,79,774, Rs. 1,12,47,030 being on account of current demand and Rs. 7,32,744 on account of arrears of the previous years. The total collection on account of current demand during the year under report was a little better than in the previous years being 94.1 per cent as against 93.8 per cent and in regard to the collection of previous arrears the percentage of collection was 74.4 as against 73.4 in 1921-22. The collection of Land Revenue during the year under report is the highest on record. The increase under current demand was Rs. 5,94,010 over the figure for the previous year. This increase was contributed by all the districts and was due to the special measures taken by Government to expedite the disposal of darkhasts and to throw open additional lands for cultivation, to increased realizations under Amara in regard to which special instructions were issued and to the introduction of revision settlement in portions of Tumkur, Kadur and Hassan Districts. In regard to the collection of the current

O. R.N 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1934.

year's demand Chitaldrug District stood first with a percentage of 97.9. The total balance outstanding at the end of the year was 9,88,584 as against 10,63,580 in the year previous. In the taluks of Bangalore, Kolar, Sidlaghatta and Goribidnur, the arrears were more than Rs. 25,000 each and the Amildars of these taluks should be asked to reduce the arrears at an early date.

11. The amount outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 23,126. The demand for the year was Rs. 2,38,983, which is Rs. 6,785 more than the previous year. Out of the total recoverable demand of Rs. 2,62,109, a sum of Rs. 2,43,163 was collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 18,946 at the end of the year. The percentage of collection to the current demand was 92.7 during the year under report as against 91.0 in the year previous. The heaviest arrears were in the Mysore District, being 6,339, the lowest being in Chitaldrug District 1,271.

12. The total number of coercive processes issued during the year was 5,042 less than in the previous year. The decrease is noticeable under all classes of processes. The amount realized by coercive measures was Rs. 41,541 more than in the previous year. The amount recovered by the sale of land was Rs. 74,630 while that by the distraint of movable property was Rs. 9,766. Government desire to observe that if the collection work is done by the taluk authorities promptly and efficiently the necessity for resorting to coercive processes on a large scale can be appreciably reduced.

13. Out of 488 applications, for a total sum of Rs. 83,830 received during the year, 166 loans amounting to Rs. 20,440 were sanctioned. The disposal cannot at all be considered satisfactory as the total allotment was not fully utilised. Out of the instalments that fell due during the year which amounted to Rs. 1,56,431, Rs. 1,12,530 or 71.93 per cent was collected during the year. The Inspecting (Taluk Officers) Sub-Division Officers and the Deputy Commissioners should make it a point to check the loan registers carefully and issue instructions to Amildars to pay better attention to the work in future.

14. Out of 298 applications involving an amount of Rs. 1,46,730, 93 applications for an aggregate amount of Rs. 21,700 were sanctioned, and 153 applications for Rs. 88,280 were rejected leaving 53 applications for Rs. 36,750 pending at the end of the year. Out of a sum of Rs. 1,04,041 that fell due during the year the amount collected was only Rs. 71,446 or 68.87 per cent. As in the case of Takavi loans both the disposals and the collection of previous loans were unsatisfactory.

In the taluks of Dodballapur, Magadi, Malur, Sidlaghatta, Heggaddevankote, Yedatore, Mandya, Nanjangud, T.-Narsipur, Malvalli, Hole-Narsipur, Chamrajnagar, Belur, Channarayapatna, Shikarpur and Shimoga, the collection was less than 50 per cent.

15. Detailed information has not been furnished as regards the amount granted for the construction of irrigation wells in the Tumkur District. In the Kolar District, only a sum of Rs. 800 was granted. Government desire to emphasise the importance of encouraging the raiyats to take up loans for the improvement and construction of irrigation wells particularly in the maidan districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug.

16. The total amount sanctioned by Government for the grant of Takavi and Land-Improvement Loans during the year was Rs. 80,000 out of which the Revenue Commissioner allotted Rs. 66,000 to the different districts. The total amount disbursed was only Rs. 41,125, thus leaving Rs. 38,875 to lapse. The results are not satisfactory and disclose lack of interest on the part of the Revenue Officers in this branch of work.

17. The total demand on account of Supari Cess during the year including the arrears of previous years was Rs. 32,508 out of which a sum of Rs. 31,850 was collected. Government in their Order No. 7989-8019—A & E 121-22-4, dated the 12th June 1923, abolished the levy of the Supari cess.

No. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1924.

18. The total amount for Village Improvement Work during the year under report was Rs. 25,000. Out of this, the Revenue Commissioner allotted Rs. 22,330 for the different districts; but only a sum of Rs. 6,792 was actually spent in the districts of Bangalore, Mysore, Hassan, Shimoga, Kadur and Chitaldrug. It is unsatisfactory to note that the allotments were not used to any appreciable extent in most of the districts. Government regret to observe that sufficient interest was not taken by the local officers in this matter. It is reported that 1,456 Village Improvement Committees devoted half a day per week for communal labour, that 1,715 Committees subscribed for newspapers and that 721 held weekly meetings. The question of placing the whole scheme of Village Improvement on a more satisfactory basis under one undivided authority and control is now engaging the attention of Government.

19. Government are glad to observe that during the year under report considerable progress was achieved in the working of the Village Forest Scheme. The total number of forests at the close of the year was 103 covering an extent of 63.4 square miles. The panchayets are reported to have begun to realise the benefits of the scheme. The villagers are reported to have contributed free labour to an estimated extent of Rs. 650 and a sum of Rs. 2,744 was realised by the panchayets during the year by the disposal of forest produce. A sum of Rs. 592 was spent for sowing seeds, planting trees, ploughing up blank spaces for promoting the growth of fodder crops, etc. At the end of the year the panchayets had in deposit a sum of Rs. 3,578.

20. Forty thousand eight hundred and ninety-three trees were planted in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan and Chitaldrug on the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. In addition to this, 58,829 trees were planted in all the districts. Chitaldrug District takes the first place with 18,485 and Kadur comes last with only 2,416.

21. The re-classification operations begun last year in Hoskote and Chintamani Taluks were completed and the re-classification of water-supply to wet and garden lands was attended to in 2,151 villages. Revision Settlements were introduced during the year into the taluks of Heggaddevankote, Seringapatam (channel area), Hole-Narsipur, Arkalgud, Sidlaghatta, Bagepalli and Devanhalli. The revision related to a total number of 1,561 villages and resulted in a total increase in revenue of Rs. 2,29,509.

22. The working of the Minor Tank Restoration Scheme was transferred from the Revenue Department to the Public Works Department from 1st October 1922 in Tumkur and Hassan, and from 1st November 1922 in the other districts. The inspection of major and minor tanks was unsatisfactory, as only 374 out of 2,553 of the former and 625 out of 22,792 of the latter were inspected by the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Division Officers. During the year under report 292 major tanks and 286 minor tanks were restored or repaired at a total cost of Rs. 1,81,849 and Rs. 72,776 respectively, and the value of earth workdone by the raiyats to these tanks was about Rs. 17,762 and 22,589 respectively.

23. The Revenue Commissioner reports that the accommodation for revenue offices in several districts is inadequate and unsuitable. He is requested to submit to Government a consolidated list of all such cases with the information as to the extent of additional accommodation required with a programme for three years.

24. Out of 12,992 cases that were brought up for orders during the year the actual number disposed of was only 8,427. The progress in the disposal of these cases leads much to be desired. Government direct that these cases should be promptly disposed of in the years in which they arise, as much of the work as possible being done during jamabandi.

25. Out of a total of 3,894 daftars and 315,042 papers that had to be sorted during the year 1,472 daftars and 291,077 papers were sorted. The progress in this important work is unsatisfactory.

Sorting of records.

No. R. 4053-61—L. R. 10-23-9, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1924.

26. The work of the village officers during the year is reported to have been satisfactory. The total number of shanbhogs and patels punished were 748 and 2,101 respectively, as against 759 and 2,179 in the previous year. Village officers. In 692 instances in the case of shanbhogs and in 1,962 instances in the case of patels the punishment inflicted was fine. It is reported that about 50 per cent of the persons actually working as patels and shanbhogs were only gumastas. Government have already directed that the registered officials cannot be permitted to absent themselves for employment elsewhere and that if they prefer to remain in service elsewhere they should resign their "hak" to the office in favor of their next of kin. This order should be strictly enforced.

27. There were 436 accidental fires which resulted in a total loss of 27 human lives, 321 cattle and property valued at Rs. 1,91,574. Relief to the sufferers was granted to the extent of Rs. 5,117-8-0 by way of free grant of wood bamboos and other building materials. A large number of date trees were also given to the sufferers for house-building purposes. Accidental fires.

28. The inspection work by Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Division Officers is still capable of considerable improvement. It does not appear that sufficient attention was paid during the year to the inspection of villages in the interior. Government have recently emphasised again the necessity of inspecting officers travelling as much as possible into the interior of their charges and directed that journeys made on tour by executive officers should as far as possible be on horse back. The importance of carrying out the inspections on a systematic plan instead of crowding them into the closing month of the year should also be kept in view. During the year under report the Dewan made two extended tours of inspection in the malnad and maidan districts, and the unsatisfactory condition of revenue offices in general has been pointed out in detail in the Dewan's Tour Notes. Improvement in this respect can be effected only by superior officers carrying out their inspections on a well arranged plan and with sufficient leisure to enable them to look into the working of the offices in detail and correct irregularities and mistakes on the spot. The Sub-Division Officer of Chikballapur has not furnished the number of days camped out by him and the Sub-Division Officers of Mysore, Hole-Narsipur and Tirthahalli have not furnished information as to the number of interior villages visited by them. The working of the District and Taluk Treasuries does not appear to have been satisfactory. The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar and Hassan did not inspect any Taluk Treasuries during the year and the Sub-Division Officer of Maddagiri did not inspect the Taluk Treasuries at Sira and Maddagiri. The Sub-Division Officer of Sagar did not submit his reports of the inspection of Sagar and Sorab Treasuries. The explanations of the officers concerned should be obtained and furnished to Government for orders. Inspections.

29. The only satisfactory feature of the year's work of the Land Revenue Department is *fairly good collection work*. The defects in the Land Revenue Administration have been dealt with in detail in the Tour Notes of the Dewan issued in Government Orders, O. M. No. G. 351-95—G. M. 66-22-3, dated the 2nd January 1923, and G. 2371-2421—G. M. 66-22-25, dated the 30th July 1923, respectively, covering six districts three in the maidan and three in the malnad. As a result of further enquiries and discussions with the Revenue Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners, Government have framed certain proposals for the simplification of work and to ensure prompt disposal of business in Revenue Offices and separate orders will issue on the subject at an early date. The Amildari service as well as the position of Assistant Commissioners in the Civil Service who are in charge of the Sub-Divisions has been recently improved. Government look primarily to these officers for an appreciable improvement of work in the Land Revenue Department. Supervision and personal interest in the work are also demanded on the part of the Deputy Commissioners. Government hope that in the current year the results in all branches of work will show a decided improvement. Conclusion.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Offg. Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

PRESS TABLE.

Exd.—k. s.