



REPORTS

ON THE

Land Revenue Administration
and on the Operations of the
Land Records and Settlement
Departments in the Central
Provinces for the year ending
the 30th September 1934

NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P.
1935

**Agents for the sale of Publications issued by the
Central Provinces Government**

(Note.—Appointments of all official Agents in the United Kingdom and on the Continent for the Sale of Government Publications have been terminated with effect from the 1st April 1925.

All publications in future are obtainable either direct from the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W. C. 2, or through any bookseller.)

INDIA

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>AKOLA :
The Proprietor, Shri Ramdas Stores,
Tajnapeth.
Mr. M. G. Bakshi, Law Books Agent.</p> <p>ALLAHABAD :
Mr. Ram Narain Lal, Publisher, etc.,
1, Bank Road.
The Superintendent, Nazair Kanun
Hind Press.</p> <p>AMRAOTI :
Thakur & Co., Ltd., Booksellers.</p> <p>BARODA :
Mr. M. C. Kothari, Bookseller and
Publisher, Raopura Road.</p> <p>BILASPUR :
Mr. M. A. Subhan, Bookseller and
Publisher.</p> <p>BOMBAY :
D. B. Taraporevala, Sons & Co.,
190, Hornby Road, Fort.
Radhabai Atmaram Sagoon.
Sunder Pandurang, 25 Kalbadevi
Road.
Thacker & Co., Ltd.</p> <p>CALCUTTA :
The Book Company, 4/4-A, College
Street.
Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd.,
8-2, Hastings Street.
The Indian School Supply Depot.
M. C. Sircar & Sons, 75, Harrison
Road.
Newman & Co.
R. Cambray & Co.
S. K. Lahiri & Co.
Thacker, Spink & Co.</p> <p>CAWNPORE :
The Manager, Sampson William and
Co., 127-B, The Mall.</p> <p>CHHINDWARA :
The Proprietor, Verma Book Depot.</p> <p>COOCH BEHAR :
Babu S. C. Taluqdar, Proprietor,
Students & Co.</p> <p>DELHI :
The Oxford Book and Stationery Co.
R. S. Tomara & Sons, Opposite Fort
Gate.</p> | <p>JUBBULPORE :
The Manager, Educational Book Depot.</p> <p>KARACHI :
The Standard Bookstall.</p> <p>KHAMGAON :
Sakalkale Typewriting Institute.</p> <p>LAHORE :
The Punjab Sanskrit Book Depot.
Rai Sahib M. Gulab Singh & Sons.</p> <p>LUCKNOW :
The Proprietor, Newal Kishore
Press.
The Upper India Publishing House,
Ltd., 41, Aminabad Park.</p> <p>MADRAS :
Higginbotham & Co.
S. Murthy & Co., Post Box
No. 152.
The Proprietor, The City Book
Co., Post Box No. 283.</p> <p>NAGPUR :
Aidan Binzani, Proprietors, Karmavir
Book Depot, Mahal.
Mr. G. G. Khot & Sons, Walker Road.
Mr. G. A. Shastri, Bookseller and
Publisher, Hislop College Road.
The Manager, Educational Book Depot.
The Manager, "The Hitavada".
The Proprietors, Bhisey Brothers,
Booksellers and Publishers.
Mr. D. M. Dhupal, Manager, Ex-
perimental Book Binding Depot.
The Manager, Nagpur Law Journal,
Central Law House, Tulsi Bag Road,
Mahal.</p> <p>PATNA :
The Patna Law Press Co.</p> <p>POONA :
The Proprietors, New Kitabkhana.</p> <p>RAIPUR :
The Proprietor, Chaube Printing
Works.</p> <p>RANGOON :
The Superintendent, American
Baptist Mission Press.</p> <p>VELLORE :
A. Venkatasubban, Law Bookseller.</p> <p>YEOTMAL :
V. N. Saraswat.</p> |
|--|--|

No. 1644-281-XII

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 13th May 1935.

READ—

- (1) Reports by the Commissioners of divisions on the Land Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1934.
- (2) The report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1934.

RESOLUTION

The revenue year 1933-34 was another period of difficulty and anxiety. The monsoon rainfall of 1933 was excessive and proved unfavourable to the kharif crops except rice. Heavy rain in the middle of September, followed by considerable showers in October, damaged the cotton and juar crops, particularly in low-lying and water-logged areas, those in many riverain villages of the Chanda and Wardha districts being destroyed by floods. In spite of the scantiness of the winter rainfall the prospects of the rabi crops were promising, but a period of severe cold and frost towards the end of January and the beginning of February damaged the wheat crop considerably and minor rabi crops more extensively, particularly in low-lying and riverain tracts. Further damage was caused by rust and insect pests, and in the end the outturn of both the rabi and kharif crops other than rice was again below normal. Rice was returned at 13.5 annas (14.5) and cotton, juar and wheat at 8.6 annas (9), 11 annas (10.4) and 11.2 annas (9.8), respectively, the average outturn of all crops being only 87 per cent. (89 per cent) of the normal. There was no improvement in the prices of agricultural produce; on the contrary, a fall of about 15 per cent in the price of juar and wheat wiped out the advantage of the slight increase in the outturn of those crops. A small rise in the price of cotton followed the conclusion of the Indo-Japanese agreement, but the rise came too late and did not last long enough to benefit the actual growers.

2. While in the rice area the economic position gave no cause for concern, thanks to the long succession of good harvests, elsewhere in the Central Provinces agriculturists had again to contend with the cumulative difficulties of low prices and poor outturn. Nevertheless indications are not wanting of a progressive adjustment to the conditions of the protracted depression. The most encouraging feature was an increase of 406,262 acres, in the cropped area which was common to all districts and to all the more important crops. It is clear that, although the tightness of the rural money market may have brought about a curtailment of unproductive and ceremonial expenditure—a result which can be accepted as not unwelcome—it has not prejudiced agricultural operations. No demoralization has set in, and although their resources have diminished, cultivators still have the will and the capacity to make the best of their circumstances. In especial there have been no signs of distress among the labouring classes. Unfortunately the year was not a healthy one, and most districts in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh divisions suffered from a severe epidemic of cholera. A large number of preventive inoculations was carried out, and the readiness with which the people adopted this precaution is an encouraging sign of the advance in public opinion about health matters.

3. Government continued to do its best to ease the hardships of agriculturists. In the flood-stricken areas, in addition to the organization of private relief, Government forests were thrown open for the free extraction of grass, fuel, edible produce and building materials. Test works were started in a few places in one district, but evoked little response and were closed down after a short trial. Taccavi loans to the extent of Rs. 7.40 lakhs were distributed. Remissions and suspensions of land revenue were granted to the extent of Rs. 4.13 lakhs and Rs. 16.66 lakhs respectively, and general orders were issued directing that arrears of land revenue in excess of one year's demand should be remitted forthwith. Although the number of coercive processes issued rose from 6,893 to 7,737, the policy of not using undue pressure on people genuinely unable to pay was adhered to strictly. Out of Rs. 18.50 lakhs of arrears and Rs. 1,31.56 lakhs of current demand, Rs. 4.57 lakhs and Rs. 1,20.11 lakhs respectively were collected, the percentage of the normal demand being 95 (94). No coercive

process was used for the recovery of taccavi. Out of Rs. 39.50 lakhs due for recovery only Rs. 5.91 lakhs were recovered, and the balance of Rs. 33.59 lakhs was left unrecovered, though for the most part unsuspending. The bulk of these arrears is due from the Jubbulpore and Saugor districts and during the year enquiries were initiated with a view to determining the paying capacity of the debtors and making a suitable refixation of instalments of their debts. The large amounts of land revenue and taccavi left uncollected at the end of the year bear unmistakable testimony to the leniency shown by Government in recovering its dues. Measures such as the exemption of minimum agricultural produce from attachment in execution of decrees by collectors remained in operation during the year.

Special enquiries were made into the oft-repeated complaint that proprietary shares or villages are changing hands for abnormally low prices, and these enquiries showed that there is no foundation for the idea. When Government investigated the possibility of buying villages in order to stimulate the market and enlarge its raiyatwari estate, it found that the prices at which they were obtainable were much in excess of anything that it could afford to pay as a business proposition.

4. Nor were Government's efforts confined to these administrative relief measures, which are after all undertaken normally in all times of difficulty. The constructive policy to relieve indebtedness, which began with the passing of the Debt Conciliation Act in the previous year, was continued. Debt Conciliation Boards were established at Balaghat and Narsinghpur in addition to those already appointed at Seoni and Khurai, and by the end of the year valuable experience had been acquired of the working of these new institutions. In all the four boards Rs. 31.72 lakhs of debt were reduced to Rs. 18 lakhs by the 31st March 1934, the percentage of remission being 43. The boards are growing in popularity, and their appointment has had the result not only of creating a more reasonable frame of mind in creditors but also of encouraging a certain amount of private conciliation. Legislation was undertaken during the year to deal with the reduction of accumulated debts and of future interest, to take power to reduce rents and revenue during the currency of a settlement, and to permit the transfer of occupancy holdings in favour of land mortgage banks, so as to enable

this class of tenant to obtain long-term credit from the banks, the number of which has also been increased. All these measures were passed into law either during the year or soon after its close. The divisional reports bear witness to the fact that the people appreciate these constructive efforts of Government to mitigate their difficulties, and recognize that the cultivator's safest route is the path of law and order, and that his best friend is Government.

5. On the whole the relations between landlords and tenants remained cordial. In the Bilaspur district the agrarian situation was further improved as the result of orders for the re-examination of the wajib-ul-arz entries regarding grazing rights, and it was possible to withdraw the punitive police. With the general economic deterioration and the consequent difficulty of recovering rents the number of rent suits rose slightly to 26,073 (24,509), but this was inevitable in the circumstances of the year, and it is significant that ejectment suits declined from 283 to 216. Lambardars and kotwars also performed their duties well, in spite of the fact that the general depression added greatly to their difficulties. Patels in raiyatwari villages and mukaddams and their gumashtas continued to work satisfactorily. Although there was a slight fall from 32,731 acres to 31,815 acres in the area allotted in raiyatwari villages, and the area relinquished rose from 27,156 acres to 30,331, the condition of these villages did not show any marked deterioration. In the Nimar district the premium fetched at auctions was 43 (30) times the assessment. The question of improving the management of raiyatwari areas is being further examined by Government. Thirty-five new village panchayats were established during the year, 23 of which were in the Chhattisgarh division alone. The reports, however, again complain of the reluctance of these bodies to undertake administrative duties.

6. Consolidation operations made further satisfactory progress in Chhattisgarh, and a second *chakbandi* party was added during the year to meet the increasing demand. Since the introduction of the Act in 1926 consolidation has been completed in 520 villages, in which 1,065,939 khasra numbers have been reduced to 141,860. The cost remains at the low figure of Re. 0-4-0 per acre and the work continues to be self-supporting. Greater attention was paid during the year to the replacement of

missing traverse marks, but there is still scope for more intensive action in this matter in view of the large accumulation of missing and displaced marks. Government notes with satisfaction that the land record staff maintained its normal level of efficiency as is evidenced by the fewer punishments inflicted during the year.

7. Government has read with pleasure the names of the officers whose good work has been commended and records its appreciation of the unflagging patience and efficiency with which the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners have administered their charges during another exacting year. Government's thanks are also due to Mr. Jayaratnam for his successful administration of the Settlement and Land Records Department during the year.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this resolution and of the reports annexed thereto be submitted to the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands (Revenue), that copies be forwarded to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, to the Commissioner of Settlements and Director of Land Records and that it be published in Part I of the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

By order of the Governor in Council,

R. N. BANERJEE,

*Revenue Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Serial No.	Subject.	Paragraph.
PART I.—Agricultural conditions of the year		
1	Character of the season	1—7
2	Area and rental statistics	8—23
3	Raiyatwari estates	24—34
4	Condition of agricultural classes	35—39
5	Relations between landlords and tenants	40—44
6	Relations between Government and people	45—50
7	Agricultural improvements	51—55
8	Destruction of pigs	56—59
9	Land Alienation Act	60—62
10	Loans under the Agriculturists and Land Im- provement Loans Acts.	63—73
PART II.—Land revenue collections		
11	Demand, collection and balance of land rev- enue on the roll.	74—78
12	Demand, collection and balance of land rev- enue not on the roll.	79—82
13	Cesses assessed on land revenue	83—85
14	Miscellaneous land revenue	86—89
15	Coercive processes	90—92
16	Revenue money orders	93
PART III.—Revenue court work		
17	Transfer of proprietary rights	94—101
18	Revenue court work under certain heads	102—117
19	Suits between landlords and tenants	118—121
20	Appeals and applications for revision	122—126

Serial No.	Subject.	Paragraph.
PART IV.—Other heads of revenue administration		
21	Land Acquisition	127—130
22	Lambardars	131—134
23	Mukaddams	135—138
24	Kotwars	139—143
25	General revenue business	144—150
26	Delegation of enhanced powers to subordinate officers.	151 & 152
27	Protection of malguzari forests	153 & 154
28	Village Panchayats	155—157
29	District Gazetteers	158 & 159
30	Effect of recent land revenue legislation	160—164
31	Working of section 203 of the Land Revenue Act.	165
32	Consolidation of holdings	166
33	Revision of the Patwari halkabandi	167 & 168
34	Effect of changes in the pay or emoluments of the land revenue staff.	169—171
35	Construction of buildings for the use of land revenue staff.	172—174
36	Famine programmes	175
37	Tours and inspections	176—181
38	Settlement operations	182—184
39	Notice of officers	185—189