

TELEGRAMS

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AND

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN COUNCIL,

RELATIVE TO THE

FAMINE IN BENGAL,

FROM

OCTOBER 1873 TO 31st MARCH 1874.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

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1874.

Telegrams between the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council, relative to the Famine in Bengal, from October 1873 to 31st March 1874.

From Viceroy, 27th October 1873.

Very bad report of failure in crops in Bengal. I leave at once for Calcutta to concert measures with Campbell. In meantime have given him full discretion. I have authorized commencement of Northern Railway, and further work, Soane Canal.

From Secretary of State, 3rd November 1873.

Can you tell us what are the areas of country, and what amount of population in danger of famine?

From Viceroy, 4th November 1873.

Yours of 3rd. Distress is chiefly apprehended in Behar and Rajeshaye Division. For area and population, see Bengal Census.

From Secretary of State, 5th November 1873.

Report to me what measures you are taking or contemplate for meeting threatened famine.

From Viceroy, 7th November 1873.

Yours of 5th. Soane Canal Works enlarged; Northern Bengal Railway commenced; Lieutenant Governor authorized to commence additional works, and to employ people needing work. Wages payable in grain; supplies for work people laid in by Government. Rice ordered from Burmah and Madras. Railway rates for grain to distressed districts reduced by one half. I have declined to prohibit export or interfere with trade. Inquiry about tramways for carrying grain in interior proceeding. Prepared to help from Commissariat. Have allotted funds to Lieutenant Governor for granting loans to municipalities, and have relaxed rates to facilitate loans for land improvement. Preparing to form Central Committees and District Committees for relief; Committees to receive funds from Government to purchase grain and lay in supplies. Will authorize additional establishments in distressed districts, and advances of money to landholders and others to purchase grain for distribution. Have asked for local suggestions for facilitating emigration. Am preparing all arrangements beforehand. Critical distress anticipated from February to August 1874.

Durbars in Agra and Lucknow, and Kirwee Camp of Exercise, will not take place. Roorkee Camp reduced.

Resolution of Government will be published to-morrow.

From Secretary of State, 7th November 1873.

Offer sent to me by firm in London to send 50 or 100 thousand tons of rice to Bengal by diverting cargoes ready for shipment in Eastern ports.

From Viceroy, 8th November 1873.

Yours of yesterday. Please say what rice, from what ports, price at Calcutta, and time of arrival.

From Secretary of State, 10th November 1873.

Offer for rice from Marcus Samuel and Son. Rice from Siam, Saigon, Rangoon, and Bassein. Price, about 6*l.* a ton free on board; freight to be added. Delivered in Calcutta, January and February.

Shall I accept offer, or will you buy through your own agents at those ports?

To the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 10th November 1873.

Famine. We want fuller information. Our latest letters do not mention subject.

Tell me by telegraph, as nearly as you can, what districts of Behar and Bengal most threatened; and what proportion of the rice crops has been lost in each. What are the prospects of the spring crops?

From Viceroy, 11th November 1873.

If you are satisfied with the character and credit of the firm, we will take 50,000 tons clean rice, delivered here in January and February, or sooner if possible, on the terms mentioned. If you see fit to (?) Message arrange details, and inform us of all particulars as quickly as possible.

Keep purchase secret as long as possible.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 12th November 1873.

Famine,—Bengal, North Ganges and all Behar most affected. Rice failure (in) those districts excessive. Bengal, South of Ganges, very short crop; only good on sea coast, viz., Chittagong, Backergunge, South Jessore, South Midnapore, Orissa. Prospect (of) spring crop in Behar very bad. Bengal spring food crop little grown. Exact proportion (?) lost cannot be given yet. General effect still uncertain. Last three years good. Hope immediate of rain gone. My apprehensions increasing.

From Secretary of State, 12th November 1873.

Your telegram of 11th received. I shall report proceedings on it. Mr. Gladstone suggests that we should not depend exclusively on rice, but provide also Indian corn. Tell me if you wish anything done here, as we have telegraphic communication with American ports.

From Secretary of State, 15th November 1873.

I have ordered from Marcus Samuels 20,000 tons rice from Saigon, deliverable January, at 62 rupees, free on board. They will not now undertake more. As you report lower price ruling in Calcutta, please make your own arrangements. I shall order no more here unless you ask it.

From Viceroy, 14th November 1873.

Your telegram of yesterday.
No necessity to buy Indian corn from America.

From Secretary of State, 18th November 1873.

Messrs. Bullock, highly respectable firm, largely concerned in Burmah rice trade, report that, by paying highest prices and making prompt arrangements from Calcutta, 750,000 tons procurable from Burmah coast, and 200,000 from Saigon. Inform me what arrangements made or proposed for buying rice in Burmah.

London prices now fully 6*l.* a ton, with rising tendency.

From Viceroy, 19th November 1873.

Your telegram of yesterday.
Eden is in communication with Bullock. Arrangement made for securing 80,000 tons, including the 20,000 through Marcus.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 21st November 1873.

No material change in prospect, perhaps a little more hopeful. Eastern districts better than expected. Prices not extreme, but little rice in market. Behar and North Bengal causing much anxiety. I hope cold weather, rain, and free importation may avert * (?) extremity.

* Worst.

From Secretary of State, 22nd November 1873.

Confidential. You seem to be in great uncertainty as to extent of danger. This uncertainty affecting such a population makes me very anxious that no precaution should be neglected. Purchases of grain in American markets would not interfere with your purchases in East, and would tend to lower prices. I think we ought to send Indian corn. Very large quantities could not be got at once, and the voyage from New York would be ninety days. But the importation might go on steadily to some extent. Unless you can state any conclusive objection, I shall order as much as can be got to be sent to Calcutta. Keep absolute secrecy, and do not allow it to limit your own operations. Telegraph reply immediately.

From Viceroy, 24th November 1873.

Present prospects not uncertain. Lieutenant Governor reports extreme failure in Patna and Bhagalpoor Division, the districts of Dinagepoor, Rungpoor, and Bogra, and part of Rajeshaye, Malda, and Moorshedabad. He estimates (?) countries six anna crop, including rubbee. Extensive relief works necessary. He expected in some other parts short crops, but no general failure of supply. Some relief works necessary. All arrangements made for relief works. Commissioner of Patna, reliable man, estimates probable number, including women and children, to be employed or relieved in Patna Division, 1,100,000 for seven months; the same proportion for other affected districts give 2,500,000 in all. Experienced Bengal Officers agree. We believe that the rest of population will obtain food by operations of (?) from inlet of Backergunge, Orissa, and other provinces where harvest good, and have been good for some years. Population affected not more numerous than in 1865, when resources of India and Burmah were ample, if properly used. Our anxiety not for resources, but local transport. Food at half seer per head per diem is required for 2,500,000 who may come on hands of Government, therefore 250,000 tons extreme demand. 80,000 secured from outside: 20,000 (?) to be bought by Bengal Government in India. We do not propose to order more till effect of (?) work known. Above calculations do not embrace contingency of failure of future crop, which would aggravate difficulty, therefore future must be uncertain, and no conclusive objection can be raised to American purchase. Prospect will be known by middle of January; we should be then able to get large portion of Burmese rice crops if wanted.

Substance of this telegram may be published as opinion of Government of India, if you think fit. I have consulted Sir Richard Temple, and he fully agrees.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 26th November 1873.

Last report of expected (?) crops on the whole somewhat more favourable. No rain.

From Secretary of State, 29th November 1873.

Question of famine brought before Cabinet and Council. We approve of Government action by purchase rather than by prohibition of export. But we are anxious that you should purchase at once, in India, Burma, and Siam, as much rice as will cover worst estimate of famine. Information here is, that ordinary trade will not take any of this rice to Bengal, and cannot be relied upon. Unless you secure this rice it will be carried away to Europe and America. As regards external supplies of corn and flour, we determine not to act separately from you. But we think you should order supplies in time, even though in excess of present estimated want. This can be done by inviting tenders from all the world. We will execute any orders you may give us, if you desire our assistance in London.

From Secretary of State, 1st December 1873.

To assure commercial public, we publish to-morrow reply to your Despatch 30th October, approving your refusal to prohibit exports, and also method of proceeding by Government purchasing food. It gives our assent beforehand to any measures you think necessary, and expresses wish that you should take care to secure food enough for possible requirements.

From Viceroy, 2nd December 1873.

I will communicate if we require any purchase to be made by you. Have written fully by last mail. Belief general (?) supply of country sufficient. Shall increase Government reserve in accordance with wish of Cabinet.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 10th December 1873.

Prices (?) of panic; vitality cold weather crops all better than was to be expected, but still no rain. Degree of scarcity depends on cold weather rain.

I stay as long as my services are of public advantage.

To Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 15th December 1873.

Lee Smith calculates 50 miles of temporary tramway can be laid per month in Behar or Bengal for 2,200% per mile. Materials worth 75 per cent. after year's use. Object, to save cattle draught and fodder during famine. Telegraph if you want materials, Contractors, or Engineers from this country for such feeding lines.

From Viceroy, 15th December 1873.

I have visited Soane Canal Works, and seen principal officers of all affected districts. Situation unchanged, excepting area sown with spring crops larger than supposed, and present prospects of these crops generally satisfactory. Future depends greatly on Christmas rains. Measures taken to store grain in selected places. Every portion of Patna Division will be within easy reach of a Government store. I saw rice stored 60 miles from railway; transport sufficient. No relief works considered necessary yet, but preparations made to start them whenever required. People employed on harvest. Ordinary labour rather diminished on Soane Canal. Mr. Levinge, Chief Engineer, deserves great credit, has opened works provisionally, and irrigated 120,000 acres. Zemindars and planters are assisting Government. Preservation of cattle occasions anxiety. All officers doing duty admirably, and consider precautions sufficient. Some apprehension expressed by local officers of private trade, which is active, being checked by Government measures; I shall endeavour to remove it. Large supplies of grain available in North-West and Punjab. Part of Oude causes anxiety. Provision made for full number of persons who, judging by past experience and present estimate of responsible officers, may resort to relief works or require gratuitous relief.

From Secretary of State, 18th December 1873.

Your telegram of 15th received, and has been published. It evidently depends on cold weather crops whether scarcity is to become famine. The risk, therefore, of delay in purchasing larger stores of food seems very great. I share the general impression that your purchases for this purpose should be larger. It is better to run no risk, and to err on the safe side.

Great anxiety in London for fuller official information. I wish you to send a telegram every week, which could be published, giving abstract of all important facts.

Lord Mayor is pressed to open a public subscription.

From Viceroy, 19th December 1873.

Your telegram of 18th. Any general impression regarding sufficiency of Government purchases must be incorrect, strict secrecy having been observed regarding them. I considered assurance conveyed in my telegram of 15th sufficient, but now proceed to give details.

We have purchased sufficient to feed 4,200,000 persons for four months. This 18 per cent. of the total population in districts affected, a per-centage very greatly beyond any recorded per-centage of the worst occasion of former famines, and exceeds greatest calculation yet made by any authority. Of this supply, only about 10,000 tons come from the North-West Provinces and Punjab, whence large additional supply may be drawn immediately; if henceforth things should look worse, there would be no difficulty in increasing purchases, in the meantime those already made are amply sufficient according to worst estimate which can be made.

Pray keep figures absolutely secret; the effect of allowing them to be known would be calamitous in checking private trade, as to which local officers and Government of India have grave apprehensions. The Government of India are fully alive to the situation, and there is no inclination to under estimate its gravity. We are convinced that every possible precaution which foresight can devise has been and is being taken. We agree with Lieutenant Governor, that it is not necessary to call for public subscriptions here, because no distress has yet manifested itself, but it is for you to judge whether Lord Mayor should call meeting in London, having reference to opinion there.

Weekly telegrams will be sent, commencing to-day, on receipt of Bengal narrative.

From Viceroy, 20th December 1873.

In continuation of telegram of 15th, present prospects somewhat better than anticipated in paras. 3 to 8, my Despatch, November 7th. Estimated yield of rain crops, not including crops to be reaped in spring 1874, as follows, in continuation of Appendix B. to Bengal Famine Narrative of 21st November. By average crop is meant 12-anna crop, on good average yield; full crop is 16-anna crop.

Littoral Districts, which include chief rice exporting districts of Bengal, population 11,000,000, average crop.

Western Bengal, 3,500,000, fully half average.

Central Delta, 7,000,000, half to three fourths.

Northern Bengal, 7,000,000, quarter to one third.

Eastern Bengal, 7,500,000, average.

Uplands of Bengal and Chota Nagpore, 7,000,000, two thirds to average.

North Behar, 11,000,000, less than one third average.

South Behar, 8,000,000, one third average.

Assam and Hill Districts, 3,500,000, average.

Rice harvest proceeding everywhere, in some districts yield better than expected. Recent rain, Bengal, has done some good to spring crops. Slight fall in prices, but not such as anticipated on new rice coming into market. General prospects not materially different from 1865. Lieutenant Governor's preliminary estimate of requirements is 70,000 tons of grain, to be available in distressed districts before end of January, securing more than supply for three months for persons who may be on relief works or require relief, calculated at 5 per cent. of 25,000,000. This demand will be fully met from purchases made by Government of India and Bengal Government. We have taken ample precautions to meet any further demands.

Lieutenant Governor promises further estimate on January 31st. Telegram will be sent every week in continuation of this.

From Viceroy, 26th December 1873.

Weekly telegram continued. Generally the same; crop prospects still dependent on winter rains. Prices generally same. Burdwan Division, winter harvest progressing; five anna crop expected some districts, full eight annas others, good twelve annas. Presidency, winter yield eight annas generally. Rajshahye, no rain, cloudy; winter yield four annas, prices stationary. Grain depôts selected. Rain urgently required for spring crops. Cooch Behar, winter yield ten annas; no improvement in spring prospects. Patna, slight rainfall 21st; winter harvest progressing, spring prospects more favourable. Gya, spring prospects good. Shahabad, no change. Tirhoot, winter yield two annas, spring prospects unfavourable; rain urgently wanted. Sarun, winter yield one tenth average, spring prospects worse; prices stationary. Chumparun, no change; dependent on winter rains. Monghyr, winter yield three annas, all round spring prospects fair. Bhagulpore, spring prospects fair. Purneah, winter yield good, but spring prospects dependent on rain. Sontal, winter yield eight annas, spring prospects bad. Hazarebaugh, winter yield ten annas, spring prospects unfavourable; slight rainfall beneficial, rain urgently required. Dacca, good winter yield, good spring prospects; prices lower. Chittagong, same as Dacca. Orissa, winter yield and spring prospects good. Moderate rainfall reported to-day in Eastern Oude.

From Viceroy, 27th December 1873.

Chief Commissioner, Oude, reports as follows :—
Rain pretty general. Prospects much brighter.

From Viceroy, 29th December 1873.

Rain has fallen at Bhaugulpore, which lies in centre of large tract of rubber cultivation. This will do much good. Good rain reported in South Tirhoot, and slight showers at Purneah.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 29th December 1873.

Some rain in Behar will do good, but particulars not yet known.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 31st December 1873.

Rain in Behar proved to be very slight. Prospects unchanged. Prices still not excessive. Large exports, only Government imports rice.

From Viceroy, 2nd January 1874.

Weekly telegram continued :—

Burdwan Presidency Divisions. Spring prospects fair, prices stationary, but relief works contemplated.

Rajshahye. No material improvement; slight partial rain, 27th; prices stationary. No distress reported.

Rungpore. Labourers increasing at relief works, spring crops urgently need rain.

Patna District. Partial rain, 27th; spring prospects good.

Gya. 6-anna winter harvest, spring prospects good.

Tirhoot, Sarun, Bhaugulpore. Slight rainfall, no general improvement; prices rising; relief works commenced; considerable attendance in some districts.

Monghyr. No improvement.

Purneah. Slight rain, 28th; prices lower.

No other alterations, beyond sea grain arriving. Storage and distribution arrangements progressing. Anxiety for Oude much removed by rainfall.

From Viceroy, 9th January 1874.

Weekly telegram. During winter, yield generally better than expected, spring prospects fair, prices rising. Presidency, no change, rain urgently needed, prices stationary. Rajshahye, partial rain, spring prospects much improved, prices stationary. Patna District, spring crops satisfactory. Gya, Shahabad, no change. Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, no improvement, prices rising; large attendance, Sarun relief works. Bhaugulpore, partial rain, spring prospects improved; no other changes; prices generally rising. Distress inevitable in Behar; extent dependent on rain in next fortnight; if none, severe and widespread. Relief Committees forming. Grain beyond sea coming largely. Rail transport sufficient; inland carriage defective, but maturing. Public telegram ends.

If deaths from starvation in Sarun have been telegraphed home, facts are that three alleged deaths reported to Collector, Sarun. Inquiries being made.

From Viceroy, 16th January 1874.

Weekly telegram. General prospects slightly improved by moderate rainfall on 11th.

In Patna District and Northern and Eastern Bengal, slight rain. Tirhoot, Arrah, South Behar, and Bhaugulpore, spring prospects hopeful. North Behar, bad. Sarun, Chumparun, relief works largely attended. Tirhoot, some distress reported; prices rising slightly, not excessive. Large importations, public and private, into Behar. No other changes. Large arrivals of foreign rice continue. Future supplies and tonnage secured. Railway carriage adequate. Local transport improving. Commissariat assistance ordered. Local Relief Committees forming. Central Committee in preparation. Revenue payable by zemindars who assist people will be postponed.

From Viceroy, 17th January 1874.

Information only for Cabinet, 19th. Situation substantially unchanged. 260,000 tons food arrived or secured to 1st May. More obtainable from Burmah, and market of North-West Provinces and Punjab hardly touched. Supply secured equals power of local transport in distressed district. Reserve in hand besides.

I am satisfied with supply, but local transport and relief arrangements not yet sufficiently organized. I shall increase purchases to any extent if necessary, relying on support of Government.

Campbell asks to stay longer than arranged. Doctors report that he might stay till July, if relieved from considerable portion of work. This condition being impossible, I decided former arrangement holds. I think change inconsistent with interests of public service.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 17th January 1874.

Lee Smith's plan for tramways fully inquired into. Found impracticable in time for relief operations.

From Viceroy, 20th January 1874.

I have arranged with Sir George Campbell that Sir Richard Temple shall go at once to Behar with full authority delegated to him by Government of Bengal to direct all relief operations.

From Viceroy, 23rd January 1874.

No rain. No further improvement, but area of anticipated distress not altogether enlarged. Prices generally slightly rising. Attendance on relief works in North Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun increasing. Local transport arrangements improving. (?) at relief centres progressing. Commissariat agency further employed. Sir R. Temple deputed to visit Behar, with full authority delegated by Government of Bengal to direct relief operations, reporting proceedings to Local Government. Supplies of rice from beyond sea ample. Arrangements making for Government emigration to Burmah.

From Viceroy, 30th January 1874.

Good rain all over Bengal 24th, 27th. Some rain parts of Oude and North-West. Spring prospects generally improved. Rain in Behar slight, partial; no improvement. Central Committee arrangements completed. Public meeting will be held 4th. Despatch published announcing Government measures for supply of grain. Bengal Government has purchased 50,000 tons. Government of India received in Calcutta from beyond sea 47,000; arranged for up to middle of May 245,000 more. Total 342,000 tons, exclusive of local advances for purchase of grain. Cost, 3,000,000*l.*

Viceroy's Minute giving reasons against prohibiting export published. Sir Richard Temple inspecting Behar. Local transport and storage progressing.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 4th February 1874.

General prospects much improved by seasonable rain all over country, but North Behar causes very great anxiety. Elsewhere cold weather crops survived much better than could have been expected, and it is hoped they are now saved.

From Viceroy, 6th February 1874.

General beneficial rainfall 31st over Bengal and Behar, extending to Oudh and threatened districts North-West Provinces. Area of scarcity now becoming defined.

For Patna Division Sir R. Temple estimates 1,500,000 may require relief, principally North Tirhoot. Chumparun, energetic measures taken to provide transport for grain from railway stations. Particulars incomplete for other divisions. Public meeting 4th well attended by Native community. Central Relief Committee formed. Announcement of Her Majesty's subscription by Viceroy received with gratification.

13,000*l.* raised at meeting. Supplies arriving from beyond sea largely and rapidly. Prices lower at Calcutta. Upward tendency up country.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, 11th February 1874.

Accounts from all quarters show very great benefit from rain. Only North Tirhoot benefits little.

From Secretary of State, 11th February 1874.

Previous communications satisfy me that you contemplate gratuitous relief to such as cannot work, women, children, or castes to whom labour test cannot be applied. Report any other information you may think useful.

From Viceroy, 14th February 1874.

As regards intentions of Government to distribute gratuitous relief, the rules for Relief Committees, sent home by mail of 30th January, are conclusive. To avoid possibility of misapprehension, I have written officially to Bengal Government forbidding rigid application of labour test. This letter went home by mail of yesterday.

Statistics of exports shall be telegraphed to you early in March, including figures for February.

The recent rain has not materially increased facilities of water carriage. No (?) improvement can be expected before melting of snow about middle of May. Bengal Government has purchased about 9,000 tons of other grains besides rice. All Government of India purchases are rice.

Full telegram giving latest particulars shall be sent to you the day before Parliament meets.

From Viceroy, 14th February 1874.

We have ordered rails to be laid between Durbungah and Ganges, opposite Barh, on advice of civil officers and Molesworth.

All materials, engines, and stock drafted from other narrow lines. Order supplies sharp to replace them.

From Viceroy, 17th February 1874.

The following telegram was sent *via* Turkey on the 13th.

Weekly reports show general improvement of the whole country from rainfall. Sir R. Temple has forwarded estimate of food for North Behar, amounting to about 180,000 tons to 15th June. No difficulty in providing this demand from Government supplies at Calcutta. Arrangements for local transport promising. Tramway commencing at Barh, North Bank of Ganges to Durbungah, North Tirhoot, 46 miles. Telegraph communication opened to Mozufferpore, and being pushed further. Government has issued general instructions for Relief Committees not to enforce rigid labour test. Chief Commissioner, Oudh, has visited Northern Oudh districts, and arranged for local relief. Telegram ends.

There has been no substantial alteration since. Usual telegram will be sent to you on Friday.

From Viceroy, 19th February 1874.

If possible procure or purchase 10 small steamers—length from 70 to 90 feet; speed, 9 miles and upwards; draught, 2 feet 10 inches, and less; indicated horse power, about 100; cut in sections and send *via* Canal. These are wanted for use on Bengal rivers for famine purposes; should be in India by 1st of June.

Consult Colonel Haig, and modify particulars, if necessary, on his advice, to secure early arrival.

From Viceroy, 20th February 1874.

Weekly telegram reports of beneficial effect of rain confirmed by Special Narrative. Lieutenant Governor reports slight fall of prices at Patna and in Rajshahye Division. Slight rise elsewhere. Condition of people improved except in worst parts of North Behar, where distress increases rapidly, but is being met and effectually relieved everywhere. Nearly 100,000 tons of grain sent into distressed districts. 213,000 labourers employed on relief works. Arrangements made for other relief where necessary. In North-West Provinces last week's report most favourable for whole province. Prospects decidedly brighter in Eastern districts.

From Secretary of State, 24th February 1874.

Yours of 19th. I have ordered 10 steamers, 90 feet long, 14 feet broad, speed 9 miles, draught 3 feet, with net load 20 tons.

Haig suggests 10 barges in addition of same size. These would treble carrying power, but reduce speed to six.

Reply immediately.

From Secretary of State, 24th February 1874.

I hasten to assure you that the change of Government will in no way diminish the earnest support you have already received from this Office in your efforts to avert the calamities of famine. Continue at whatever cost to make the fullest provision for importing grain, and for storing it with the utmost expedition within easy reach of every threatened village. Let each relief centre have a current number; send list thereof by first post. Send weekly, in addition to your usual weekly telegram, another showing the number of relief stations in each famine district, and in respect to each the store of grain and grain in transit, the number of men employed on relief works, their rate of pay expressed in money and in grain, and the number receiving gratuitous relief.

I highly approve of your resolution to impose labour as a condition of relief only upon those who are able-bodied and have been accustomed to labour.

From Viceroy, 25th February 1874.

Your telegram conveying assurance of support received. Measures have been and will be taken in entire accordance with views expressed. Information asked for will be sent as far as possible.

Last reports from Temple satisfactory as to preparations for relief and arrangements for transport.

From Secretary of State, 25th February 1874.

If large supplies of febrifuge medicine of cheaper kinds are required this year they must be ordered at once. Messrs. Howard can furnish 3,000 pounds of chinchonidine in six months from this date. Shall they be ordered?

From Viceroy, 26th February 1874.

Five barges, 90 feet, in addition to 10 steamers, will suffice.

From Secretary of State, 26th February 1874.

Samuels advise "Statesman" sailed from Bangkok 19th, with 2,000 tons Siam rice.

From Viceroy, 27th February 1874.

Lieutenant Governor North-West Provinces telegraphs as follows:—

Ghazee-pore,—prices lower; distress decreasing; relief works being closed; crops ripening; good prospect, average outturn. Mirzapore,—late rains very beneficial; distress not extending. Goruckpore,—grain, except rice, somewhat cheaper; rain more beneficial than formerly expected; relief works still largely attended; charitable relief 1,200 daily. Bustee Azinghur,—general prospects better. Jounpore,—prices lower; harvest commencing; no relief works needed; generally prospects improving from approaching harvest; relief provided where necessary for destitute.

From Viceroy, 27th February 1874.

Sir R. Temple reports completion of transport arrangements, mostly by contract, in North Behar and Bhagul-pore. Amount to be transported 234,000 tons. 70,000 carts, 140,000 bullocks; 4,000 Government carts, 8,000 bullocks as reserve. 50,000 carts already at work.

Supplies from beyond sea and railway carriage adequate to meet these demands. Inland trade active. Slight fall in prices in distressed districts. Relief works largely attended. Gratuitous relief inconsiderable.

From Viceroy, 27th February 1874.

Your telegram 24th. Following Statement shows Famine Districts, Relief Centres, Storage of Grain in Tons, Labourers on Relief Works, Numbers gratuitously relieved :—

Districts.	Relief Centres.	Grain, in Tons.	Labourers on Relief Works.	Gratuitously relieved.
	No.		No.	No.
Patna - - - -	None	1,696	6,936	None
Shahabad - - -	None	2,015	1,851	None
Gya - - - -	—	4,428	1,593	None
Sarun - - - -	None	6,301	72,000	None
Tirhoot - - - -	20	7,058	19,217	None
Chumparun - - -	8	5,830	12,999	2,500
Monghyr - - - -	13	6,703	3,845	1,005
Bhagulpore - - -	7	3,647	6,400	330
Purneah - - - -	7	5,812	2,650	None
Maldah - - - -	3	694	2,019	1,175
Rajshahye - - - -	None	500	465	None
Dinapore - - - -	None	2,906	23,914	None
Bograh - - - -	None	733	2,810	None
Rungpore - - - -	10	1,430	2,068	1,146
Soane Canal - - -	None	3,504	32,000	None
Gunduk - - - -	None	None	9,500	None
Northern Bengal Railway	None	1,566	5,000	None
Total (not telegraphed)	68	54,823	205,267	6,156

Total grain in transit :—Rajshahye Division, 17,600 tons; Patna Division, 49,614; Bhagulpore Division, 11,000.

As regards pay generally, piece work averages one and a half to two annas daily, equal to one and a quarter to one and a half seer of rice.

From Secretary of State, 28th February 1874.

“Daily news” telegram received about Durbungah road relief works, states that relief works are not supervised by Europeans, that labourers are paid semi-starvation wages of three halfpence daily, payment being irregular.

Inform me immediately amount of labourers' daily pay, and price of rice at Durbungah. Message adds, that shortness of money in Local Treasury threatens collapse of transport and public works. Telegraph whether this is true.

From Viceroy, 2nd March 1874.

Your telegram 28th.

Sir R. Temple, who is here, informs me that rice at Durbungah sold at 11 to 12 seers, of two pounds, the rupee. Murwa, kind of pulse, much consumed by relief labourers, 12 to 13 seers the rupee. Wages of relief labourers, one and half annas per diem. Something less for women or child. Usually whole family works. One bad case of irregular payment occurred from mistake of officers concerned; remedied immediately on discovery. Labourers paid daily. European supervision for all relief works impossible. Cash in Durbungah Treasury, from large disbursements, run low, will be fully supplied. No danger whatever to transport from this.

From Viceroy, 4th March 1874.

It is arranged that Sir George Campbell leaves 8th April. I sent the correspondence to the Duke of Argyll. Sir George (?) to stay at all risk, but placed the matter in my hands, and I decided, on conclusive medical report, that his health made it undesirable on public grounds, without reference to private risk, that he should stay longer. I am still of same opinion, but Sir George wishes me to ask you if you agree with me, that he is open to no blame in leaving India.

From Viceroy, 4th March 1874.

Exports of rice from Bengal ports from 1st October to 23th February 1872-73 :—Ceylon, 44,267 tons ; Mauritius, West Indies, and Bourbon, 57,732 ; other foreign countries, 76,814 ; Indian ports beyond Bengal, 62,805. Total, 241,618, of which 25,182 table rice.

Exports in same period 1873-74 :—Ceylon, 32,368 tons ; Mauritius, et cetera, 43,281 ; other foreign countries, 51,033 ; Indian ports beyond Bengal, 23,440. Total, 150,122, of which 25,182 table rice.

Decreased exports of common rice this winter as compared to last, 91,584 tons.

Area of probable severe distress now well ascertained ; comprises parts of districts of Tirhoot, Sarun, Chumparun, Bhagulpore, Purneah, Dinagepore. Expect at the worst period to have something under 3,000,000 persons on the hands of Government in these districts for three months, from end of May to end of August. A smaller number during April, May, and September, and still fewer in March, October, and November.

There will be distress in nine other districts, but it will not be general.

Orders of Government rice amount to 420,000 tons, of which 350,000 from beyond sea. Of this quantity 100,000 arrived. We have been keeping up for some while a constant stream of from 2,000 to 2,500 tons a day into distressed districts.

Private trade is bringing in grain from North-West and Punjab at the rate of about 1,600 tons a day. Local transport, which has been main difficulty, now fairly well organized. Over 50,000 carts now employed in districts north of Ganges, under contracts, in bringing in Government grain, will shortly be increased to 70,000.

In worst districts, distribution of relief is being given by circles of moderate area, each village being visited and dealt with.

Two deaths from starvation reported in Monghyr. None elsewhere yet, but in parts the lowest classes are gradually becoming pinched, and without Government measures severe and extensive famine would have already begun.

Cannot as yet speak with certainty of some parts, such as Rungpore, which Sir Richard Temple is about to visit, but on the whole my present impression is, that the difficulties of supply, transport, and local organization, although very great, have been or will be overcome.

Great difficulty from disinclination of people to apply for relief ; therefore, although stringent tests will be carefully avoided in the worst districts, and every means taken to supply the people with food, I cannot guarantee, in dealing with a population so numerous, and scattered over an area so large and difficult of access, that cases of starvation may not occur.

Estimated Famine Expenditure to end of February, rather over 2,500,000/.

Financial position to close of financial year sound.

From Secretary of State, 5th March 1874.

Your Telegram of the 4th.

I quite agree that Sir George is not open to the slightest blame in leaving India. He might be open to serious blame if he stayed in such an emergency, with failing physical force.

From Secretary of State, 5th March 1874.

Samuels advise, "Braemer Castle" sailed from Siam with 2,570 tons hard-grained rice.

From Viceroy, 6th March 1874.

Weekly telegram. Slight general fall in prices, Western, Central Bengal, and Calcutta; tendency to rise, Eastern Bengal.

Reports of local arrangements from Sarun, Chumparun, Dinagepore, generally satisfactory.

Reports from Rungpore unsatisfactory. Reports from three northern Sub-divisions Tirhoot, worse.

Durbungah Sub-divisional Officer reports, "Famine has got short start of us. "I have no doubt we shall quickly overtake it, and under our arrangements no "real harm can arise meantime." Quotation ends. Later private accounts state, deaths have occurred.

By 23rd February there had been stored 42,000 maunds in Durbungah, and large supplies since arrived. No fear of insufficient supplies. Local organization for distribution and relief works incomplete. Sir George Campbell, feeling anxious, proceeds to Durbungah to-night to rectify deficiencies.

Sir Richard Temple in Purneah, proceeds thence to Maldah, Dinagepore, Rungpore, to inspect arrangements, with full powers

Grain sent up country to distressed districts, 110,000 tons to end of February.

From Secretary of State, 6th March 1874.

Your telegrams 4th, 6th. Reports gloomy here. Send me Campbell's report. Ask if European superintendence cannot be increased. Every suitable man for whom place in organization can be found might be used, even if taken off other work.

From Viceroy, 7th March 1874.

Commissioner Patna telegraphs, Durbungah, 6th,—“ Am not now apprehensive. Relief works have staved off danger; 23,000 persons said to be employed. Many in very bad condition. Only six cases required drafting to relief sheds. All purchase food in bazaar from choice. Much had been done to improve organization before I arrived, and Local Officers had spared no pains.” Message ends. There cannot be want of Government grain at Buheyra, where distress is reported, or in the rest of Durbungah Sub-division.

European superintendence for relief works has been increased; 25 overseers were ordered some time ago, and are on their way, besides many Native Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, whose services will be valuable. All requests of Bengal Government for men have been promptly and fully complied with. Staff, military and civil, already largely increased. Nothing shall stand in the way of meeting wants of famine districts. Cannot speak certainly till I receive Campbell's report. Impression is, rush upon roads owing to village relief insufficiently organized. As no fear of want of food on spot, feel hopeful confusion will be quickly remedied.

From Secretary of State, 7th March 1874.

Do you want more wagons, narrow gauge, for Durbungah tramway ?

From Viceroy, 7th March 1874.

Additional weekly telegram. Following statement shows famine districts; number of relief centres; tons of grain stored; labourers at relief works, daily average.

District.	Relief Centres.	Grain stored, in Tons.	Labourers, Daily Average.
Tirhoot - - - -	27	7,736	43,925
Chumparun - - - -	8	7,039	25,787
Sarun - - - -	18	6,950	82,820
Monghyr - - - -	13	6,773	3,845
Bhagulpore - - - -	7	4,308	3,055
Purneah - - - -	7	7,160	2,650
Maldah - - - -	3	943	2,019
Rajshahye - - - -	2	683	465
Dinagepore - - - -	6	4,825	25,080
Rungpore - - - -	3	1,641	2,068
Soane Canal - - - -	1	3,981	36,000
Gunduk Embankment - - - -	Unknown.	Unknown.	20,283
Northern Bengal Railway - - - -	Unknown.	857	6,200
Total (not telegraphed) - - - -	95	52,896	254,197

Total grain in transit, Patna Division, 39,990 tons, Bhagulpore 13,917. Rajshahye, 17,379.

Numbers gratuitously relieved unknown. Details next week. Rate of wages as last week.

From Viceroy, 7th March 1874.

Telegraph probable date of receipt in Calcutta of goods vehicle ironwork, specifying number of each description.

Vehicles much wanted on Tirhoot Railway, which will open early in April, in connexion with famine. Expedite despatch.

From Viceroy, 9th March 1874.

In addition to previous Indents, send out ironwork complete for 200 covered goods wagons and 20 break vans for Durbungah narrow gauge.

When may ironwork be expected. We wish to get woodwork ready.

From Secretary of State, 9th March 1874.

Yours of 7th. Sixty sets for covered wagons, and 70 for low-sided, ready. 100 of these should arrive end of April by "Viceroy," "Caledonian," and "Duke of Argyll;" 30 more two weeks after; 90 more for covered wagons, four weeks after, and 90 more in the following month.

Will reply to telegram of 9th as soon as possible.

From Secretary of State, 10th March 1874.

From your telegrams and Famine Despatches, I assume that 3,000,000 require feeding for three months, three quarters that number for three months, half that number for three months. If so your supply just adequate, if everything happens as you expect, but in such emergency very large margin should be provided.

I will take responsibility of any waste arising from such margin. Season for buying in Burmah slipping away.

Secure what rice you can up to 200,000 tons, 20 lacs.

From Secretary of State, 12th March 1874.

Your telegram 9th.

Have arranged for 200 wagons by end of April, 200 more by 15th May. 500 more later.

From Viceroy, 12th March 1874.

Your telegram of 10th.

My reserve is much larger than you suppose. I have no fear of spending money and will increase purchases if necessary, but do not think it advisable to order more yet from Burmah.

When I receive Temple's report from Rajeshahye Division will send you full particulars.

From Secretary of State, 12th March 1874.

Your telegram of the 12th.
Pray tell me what your reserve is.

From Viceroy, 13th March 1874.

Yours 12th.
Are dates given those of despatch from England or arrival here?
Are underframes iron or wood?
Telegraph number and description of shipment by "Duke of Argyll."

From Viceroy, 13th March 1874.

40,000 tons will be placed in distressed districts above Temple's estimates of numbers, which are higher than those of Local Officers. Additional reserve not appropriated, 105,000 tons. Total reserve, 145,000 tons. No probability that more can be sent up country from Calcutta before rains than ordered. If more wanted, I shall draw on North-West Provinces and Punjab, where supply available. I have strong reasons for not now increasing Burmese orders. More can be got from Burmah later if required. Information you have received to contrary not correct. Real difficulty not supply but local transport and distribution.

From Secretary of State, 13th March 1874.

70 low-sided wagons shipped in "Duke of Argyll," 21st February, and "Viceroy," to sail in few days; exact quantity in each unknown. Probable future shipments,—150 covered goods in March; 220 covered in April; 175 covered, 50 high open, and 20 breaks in May; 225 covered in June; 125 covered in July; 25 covered in August; total, 1,060. Excepting 160 underframes already prepared remainder will be shipped rivetted up. All iron.

From Viceroy, 14th March 1874.

Official reports from Durbungah received, dated March 7th, state that many of the lowest castes are suffering from actual famine. Three deaths from starvation had occurred, two being children in arms and one a man of 60. Local arrangements for supply and distribution of food were imperfect. Sir G. Campbell is on the spot, and reports by telegraph to-day that arrangements are completing, but till further reports received I shall feel much anxiety about Durbungah Sub-division, population, 868,000. Arrangements in progress for assuring daily visitation of each village by a subordinate officer. In Mudhoobunee Sub-division, population 690,000, people are reported to be much straitened, and large numbers employed on relief works, but no cases of actual starvation. Sir G. Campbell has visited Seetamaree Sub-division, population, 718,000, and reports by telegraph that he is satisfied that famine is being met there. Large transport contract for supplying Northern and Western Tirhoot and Chumparun from Patna working very well. Contract for supplying Eastern Tirhoot from Barh is not working satisfactorily, but last accounts show decided improvement. Railway from Barh to Durbungah progressing rapidly.

Reports from other districts satisfactory, especially from Bhagulpore. Wherever distress has arisen it has been relieved. No deaths have occurred.

I hope and believe that partial failure in Eastern Tirhoot will speedily be remedied.

From Viceroy, 14th March 1874.

Additional weekly telegram. Statement shows Famine Districts, Relief Centres, Tons of Grain stored, daily average of Labourers on Relief Works :—

Districts.	Relief Centres.	Grain stored, in Tons.	Labourers, Daily Average.
	No.		No.
Tirhoot - - -	50	12,367	105,846
Chumparun - - -	16	10,500	53,825
Sarun - - -	26	7,999	91,542
Monghyr - - -	16	6,797	7,088
Bhagulpore - - -	29	5,949	5,400
Purneah - - -	20	6,974	3,874
Maldah - - -	28	1,050	2,252
Rajshahye - - -	4	650	10,714
Dinagapore - - -	13	7,142	32,000
Rungpore - - -	15	1,700	2,681
Soane Canal - - -	1	3,877	36,000
Northern Bengal Railway	1	1,800	6,500
Total (not telegraphed)	219	66,805	357,722

Total grain in transit :—Patna Division, 40,417 tons; Bhagulpore, 15,366; Rajshahye, 22,326.

Wages as before. Numbers gratuitously relieved altogether 5,229. Details next week.

From Secretary of State, 16th March 1874.

You give me no reasons, but I will not press Burmah purchases now against your strong objection. Judging by your figures, I am still uneasy about the extent of your supply. Will explain reasons in Despatch; will only say now, provide margin ample and in time.

From Secretary of State, 17th March 1874.

“Viceroy” sailed 16th, “Caledonian” 17th, “Sirius” 25th, each with ironwork for 30 covered wagons.

From Viceroy, 18th March 1874.

Please urge upon East Indian, and Scind Punjab and Delhi Railway Boards the necessity of sending out more engine drivers without any delay, or transit of grain may be in serious danger.

From Secretary of State, 18th March 1874.

I approve highly your Order, No. 476, 13th February, about labour test. I fear Bengal Circular 703 may neutralize it.

From Secretary of State, 18th March 1874.

Iron troop barges exist in Bombay dockyard; may be fit for famine service; might be conveyed to Calcutta by rail in pieces. Application to Bombay Government suggested.

From Viceroy, 19th March 1874.

Yours 18th.

Bengal Circular 703 has been cancelled. I think policy of Government is now generally understood.

No worse accounts from Behar.

From Secretary of State, 19th March 1874.

Yours 18th. East Indian Board is acting. Sind Board has received no indent for drivers. How many should they send? Telegraph reply.

From Viceroy, 20th March 1874.

On further inquiry, it appears that Sind, Punjab, and Delhi Railway have enough Engine Drivers.

From Viceroy, 21st March 1874.

Weekly telegram. Prices nearly stationary, rise in some parts of Eastern Bengal. Reports of spring crops good everywhere, except in Tirhoot. It is thought that rain of February has placed several districts beyond reach of famine. Trade brings 1,700 tons a day into Behar, and very large quantities of private grain awaiting despatch at railway stations in Punjab. Government grain is being despatched up East Indian Railway at rate of 2,000 tons a day; up Eastern Bengal Railway 800 tons a day. Lieutenant Governor, after visiting Tirhoot, reports that, on arrival, he found famine of considerable severity had set in through parts of Durbungah Sub-division. People were flocking to relief works in enormous numbers. Local organization for relief was incompleting. There was no dearth of supplies, but prices were high; population at large not seriously affected, but many of poorest classes much pinched, and a few of most wretched had reached point of starvation; only three or four deaths recorded, but it is feared that a few more may have suffered of whom we have no full information. Organization now improved; village to village relief in detail being pressed on. Every effort being made to draft off people from relief works to their homes, but difficulties are considerable, as they prefer remaining on works. Lieutenant Governor reports, that widely spreading want has been stayed. In a part of Chumparun there has been a marked change for worse in condition of people, but local organization good, and equal to occasion. Village relief system in working order; no deaths reported. From several parts it is reported, that if it had not been for measures taken by Government, there would have been many thousand starvation deaths before this. In some parts Government grain is being sold to general population. Sir R. Temple has visited whole of Rajshahye Division. Reports transport arrangement in Rajshahye satisfactory; no deaths from want. His estimates for requirements of all distressed districts now complete. Total amount of grain now allotted 387,500 tons, which gives a reserve over

requirements of 49,000 tons; additional reserve unallotted 78,000 tons; total reserve 127,000 tons; total provision 465,000 tons. Calculations have been based for safety on daily ration of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds instead of 1 pound as heretofore. Further ample food supplies available in Punjab.

Full despatch reviewing general situation went home yesterday.

From Viceroy, 21st March 1874.

Additional weekly telegram. Statement shows Famine Districts, Relief Centres, Tons of Grain stored, daily average of Labourers on Relief Works, Numbers gratuitously relieved daily :—

Districts.	Relief Centres.	Grain stored, in Tons.	Labourers, Daily Average.	Gratuitously relieved Daily.
	No.		No.	No.
Tirhoot - - -	50	17,454	105,846	2,000
Chumparun - - -	16	10,900	53,825	900
Sarun - - -	26	9,861	91,542	Unknown
Monghyr - - -	16	7,115	7,088	1,360
Bhaugulpore - - -	29	7,377	5,238	Unknown
Purneah - - -	20	10,548	4,008	432
Maldah - - -	28	1,070	2,252	2,396
Rajshahye - - -	4	690	10,714	Unknown
Dinagpore - - -	13	8,595	32,000	Unknown
Rungpore - - -	15	2,200	7,000	3,460
Soane Canal - - -	1	4,227	29,589	None
Northern Bengal Railway	1	1,925	7,000	None
Sonthal Pergunnahs -	—	200	2,400	None
Total (not telegraphed)	219	82,162	358,502	10,548

Total grain in transit :—Patna Division, 42,168 tons; Bhaugulpore, 23,570; Rajshahye, 36,611. Wages same.

From Viceroy, 21st March 1874.

We depend on your reducing your drawings at once to 80 lacs a month. We should be glad of authority to announce reduction of drawings immediately.

From Secretary of State, 23rd March 1874.

Will reduce drawings to 80 lacs a month, commencing with second drawing in April, first drawing of 50 lacs being already advertised, and alteration would be injurious. You can announce reduction.

From Secretary of State, 24th March 1874.

Yours 21st. Report with weekly telegram aggregate of known famine deaths from first. Figures in additional telegram accidentally copied from last. Keep attention upon half famine districts.

From Viceroy, 24th March 1874.

Please urge upon Board of Directors, East Indian Railway, the necessity of hiring more rolling stock for the conveyance of grain.

From Secretary of State, 25th March 1874.

Yours 24th. Press Great Indian Peninsula Agency to lend wagons. Directors have telegraphed consent to Agency. 1,500 may fairly be asked.

From Viceroy, 26th March 1874.

Yours 25th. Great Indian Peninsula and other Railways are ready to lend wagons on payment. The East Indian Agent has hitherto been unwilling to hire. He is now doing so from Bombay Baroda Railway.

Object of my former telegram was to get Directors to instruct Agent not to hesitate to hire.

From Secretary of State, 26th March 1874.

Send 50 copies Surveyor General's new famine maps by quickest route.

From Secretary of State, 27th March 1874.

Reserve of drivers considered desirable. Thirty left yesterday for Bombay. Ten more will be engaged to leave next Thursday. Engagement to Government for one year at about average pay of East Indian. To be employed wherever wanted. See telegram to East Indian Agency for further particulars. Despatch follows.

To Governor of Bombay, 27th March 1874.

Make arrangements to receive and forward directly to Allahabad 30 engine drivers. Left Southampton yesterday, and 10 to follow next week. Men will not leave ship till Government Officer goes on board to take charge. Particulars by Despatch.

From Secretary of State, 27th March 1874.

Samuels advise "Asia," sailed from Siam with 1,354 tons rice.

From Viceroy, 28th March 1874.

Position substantially unchanged. Numbers on relief works increasing. Reports assuring as to adequacy of Government measures. Sub-divisional Officer, Durbungah, says actual famine exists only among certain classes and in certain villages of the Buheyra Thanna. Sub-divisional Officer, Mudhoobunee, says people are rapidly reaching end of their means of subsistence. In Sectamaree

Sub-Division distress is reported to be general in one circle. Reports from Chumparun rather better than last week.

Amount of Government rice sent by rail to famine districts in week ending 26th, 21,500 tons. Private grain, 14,500 tons. Total, 36,000 tons. Railway to Durbungah progressing satisfactorily; will be finished by middle of April.

Total number of known famine deaths up to 26th March—Tirhoot, 4; Monghyr, 2; total, 6.

In answer to inquiry whether he was of opinion that other unreported deaths had occurred, Sir G. Campbell reports as follows:—In times of scarcity and early stages of famine it is totally impossible to distinguish deaths accelerated by scarcity and bad food from natural deaths; he has not the least doubt that among a very poor and helpless population, such as exists in North Tirhoot, many people die when food is dear, who would not die or would not die so soon if it were cheap. He believes that there have not been deaths from direct starvation among healthy adults, but from what he sees of the people about Buheyra, and some of those on the works near Durbungah, he fears that among such a population a good many old, weakly, and sick people must have succumbed to insufficient nourishment. Many young children are much emaciated, even when their parents are not so. Lieutenant Governor does not believe that parents starve children to feed themselves, but only that children are first affected by scarcity and bad fare. This result is much aggravated by the Native habit of nursing children for two or three years. A child so nursed suffers much when mother fares indifferently and food for child fails. Extremely difficult to save such children owing to unwillingness of parents to bring them to our hospitals and poorhouses. Lieutenant Governor says emaciated children carefully fed with milk at temporary hospital at Buheyra, but mothers strongly resisted staying there in spite of every concession and arrangement that could be made. Under such circumstances, Lieutenant Governor cannot but fear that many children of a weak and sickly character die. Similarly he believes that some old and infirm people die on account of scanty food. So far as he saw, and can learn, it is only in the part near Buheyra that want has reached the point that many people are emaciated, and the weakly must in some numbers die. Every attention is now being given to improve matters there.

From Viceroy, 28th March 1874.

Additional telegram.

Districts.	Relief Centres.	Grain stored, in Tons.	Labourers, Daily Average.	Gratuitously relieved Daily.
	No.	Tons.	No.	No.
Tirhoot - - - -	50	22,060	360,267	6,365
Chumparun - - -	16	14,582	52,377	5,183
Sarun - - - - -	26	11,405	89,815	36
Monghyr - - - -	16	7,115	5,930	1,603
Bhaugulpore - -	30	10,111	23,500	1,340
Purneah - - - -	20	10,548	11,000	5,051
Maldah - - - - -	28	1,070	3,159	280
Rajshahye - - -	4	690	5,361	Small
Dinagepore - - -	14	8,595	56,615	None
Rungpore - - - -	15	2,207	3,465	4,000
Sonthal - - - - -	—	370	11,000	None
Soane Canal - - -	1	4,416	32,000	None
Northern Railway -	1	2,200	Unknown	None
Gunduck Embankments -	?	Unknown	25,063	None
Total (not telegraphed)	221	95,369	679,552	23,858

Grain in transit:—Patna Division, 42,213; Bhaugulpore, 15,556; Rajshahye, 31,976 tons.

Wages, one and a half to four annas daily.

With reference to your telegram, 24th, identical numbers, owing to reports having been sent fortnightly. Weekly report henceforward.

From Viceroy, dated 30th March 1874.

North-West Provinces report from Famine Districts,—

Bastee. Much rubbee reaped ; out-turn good. Five relief works with 12,900 labourers, two poorhouses with 79. Ordinary import of grain will suffice.

Goruckpore. On relief works 18,000. In Goruckpore poorhouses 1,030.

At Tahseelee poorhouses 200. Health good.

Ghazeepore. Average on relief works 1,200. Several works closed. Charitable relief to 1,496 persons. Daily help ceased on 23rd, but the weekly distribution of food still necessary. Rubbee out-turn above average.

Mirzapore. No distress expected north of Soane, but distress expected south of Soane. More relief works needed, and will be opened. Average on relief works 1,497.

Benares. Demand for charitable relief ceased.

Azimghur. Distress inconsiderable. Four poorhouses, with 472 inmates. No relief works.

Jounpore. No works or relief needed.

Banda. Rubbee out-turn good. Three relief works, with about 2,300 labourers ; 14 poorhouses, with 774 inmates, besides seven in Kirwee, with 314. Distress decreasing.

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