

RESETTLEMENTS IN RAYALASEEMA

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Abstract: The Resettlements were introduced in Rayalaseema districts namely Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur, Chittoor districts. The resettlements rates were introduced in Cuddapah district during the period from 1908 to 1912. The resettlement brought about a series of changes. The ‘wet’ grouping of villages was abolished. A reclassification of soils was attempted and a new table of rates introduced in regard to wet lands in all the taluks except Rayachoti in Cuddapah district. Excepting the taluks of Alur and Adoni, which were resettled in 1920, all the taluks in Kurnool district came up for resettlement during the period from 1905 to 1909. Anantapur and Chittoor districts came up for resettlement on the expiry of the 30 years periods.

Key Words: Resettlements, Service Inams, Shrotriem, Manavari (Rain fed), Poramboke, Cholan, Arika, Water-cess.

1. Introduction

The Resettlements were introduced in Rayalaseema Districts. The details of the Resettlements are given below district wise. On the expiry of the thirty year period, the district came up for resettlement¹. The first to be settled were the taluks of Jammalamadugu, Proddatur and Cuddapah, the next Pulivendla, followed by Badvel, Sidhout and Pullampet and finally Rayachoti. The resettlement rates were introduced during the following years : —

Jammalamadugu, and Proddatur	Cuddapah	Pulivendla	Badvel, and Sidhout	Pullampet	Rayachoti
1908 (F.1317)	1909 (F.1318)	1911 (F.1320)	1911 (F.1320)	1912 (F.1321)	1912 (F.1321)

At this resettlement, it was held² that no enhancement of the dry rates was justified, although prices particularly of Jonna, the standard dry crop of the district, had registered an increase. The question of enhancing the wet rates was never discussed as the fluctuation in the price of paddy was relatively less marked³.

The resettlement brought about a series of changes. The ‘wet’ grouping of villages was abolished. A reclassification of soils was attempted and a new table of rates introduced in regard to wet lands in all the taluks except Rayachoti⁴. The capacity of every irrigation source in the district was estimated and suitably graded—those placed in the fourth and the fifth classes having been treated as ‘precarious’. A more judicious pattern of water rates—known as the differential system— was evolved for all the taluks. A radical change was brought about in the treatment of dasabandham wells. Subject to the consent of the Inamdars for their resumption, the claim of the State to these wells was waived and they were converted as private property, their ayacuts were transferred to dry and remissions were discontinued. Where an agreement could not be arrived at, the land was classed as wet and allowed a baling remission. The wells as such were classed as third class sources and the personal and service **in ams** included within their ayacut were registered as dry. The ayacut under the K.C. Canal was revised, with all Government lands regularly cultivated with wet crops for the preceding five years and those from which water could not be excluded being registered as wet.

The other features of the resettlement included the elimination of large areas of reserved forest, formerly within the boundaries of surveyed villages, settlement of scattered Government lands in the 'shrotriem'⁵ villages of Kamalapuram, Proddatur, Pulivendla, Jammalamadugu, Cuddapah, Badvel and Sidhout taluks and prohibition of paddy cultivation within 50 yards of village sites. The classification of 'Manavari'(rainfed) was abolished and such lands were registered as wet or dry.

The effect of this settlement, was a net decrease in assessment in Jammalamadugu (Rs. 8,181) Cuddapah (25,365), Pulivendula (18,210), Badvel (4,403), Sidhout (14,489), Rajampet (21,167) and Rayachoti (8,063), owing chiefly to the transfer of lands from wet to dry. Proddatur, however, experienced an increase (16,284) due to the transfer of dry lands under the K.C. Canal to wet. For the district as a whole, there was a reduction in revenue by 7 per cent.

With the advent of the first Congress Ministry in 1937, resettlement operations based mainly on the Comparison of price levels were ordered to be discontinued. Legislative efforts to introduce standard rates of a statutory character did not assume a shape before the ministry resigned.

As the original tenure of thirty years expired between Faslis 1346 (1936-37) and 1350(1940-41), the district had to be settled again. But in accordance with the general policy adopted in 1937, no enhancement of the rates of assessment was made. Some minor alterations in the soil classification in Rayachoti taluk, together with a slight revision in the dry rates in Dondlavagu village of Pulivendla taluk, the transfer of 'Manavari' to dry and a revision of the wet ayacut under the K.C. Canal on the basis of wet cultivation for a continuous period of five years were some of the other important features of this resettlement⁶.

2. Kurnool District

Excepting the taluks of Alur and Adoni, which were resettled in 1920, all the taluks in the district came up for resettlement during the period from 1905 to 1909. In this resettlement no change was made in the classification of soils or in the grouping of villages except that the dry lands which were classified at the time of initial settlement as '**permanently improved**' were transferred to appropriate classes and sorts. Lands left unclassified or registered as '**poramboke**' were also classified in the resettlement. Lands which had been cultivated continuously for five years with wet crops under the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal were classified as wet lands. A consolidated wet assessment was imposed on all wet lands in Dhone. Kurnool, Nandyal, Nandikotkur and Siruvel taluks which were previously assessed as dry. The irrigation sources were classified into five classes according to their condition and capacity. Taking into account the economic conditions prevailing in Pattikonda, Koilkuntla, Markapur and Cumbum (Giddalur) taluks, no increase was made in the dry rates. However, in the taluks of Dhone, Kurnool, Nandikotkur, Nandyal and Siruvel, where the average prices of standard grains, namely, '**cholam**' and '**arika**' showed an increase, the dry rates were enhanced by 7.55 per cent. The money rates ranged from Rs. 2-0-0 to Rs. 10-0-0 for wet and from Rs.0-4-0 to Rs. 4-0-0 for dry lands.

The second resettlement of the district was undertaken by Stuart* in 1935. Except in the case of lands transferred to assessed waste since the resettlement, no general reclassification of soils was done. The irrigation sources of 3rd and 4th classes were reclassified according to their capacity. An enhancement of wet assessment rate by six and one-fourth per cent and dry assessment rate by twelve and a half per cent was contemplated but was not given effect to as the resettlement operations were not generally found popular with the ryots. Lands registered as dry, which were regularly cultivated with wet crops "for five years in the taluks of Cumbum and Markapur, were transferred to wet. In so far as the lands under the Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal were concerned, the system of consolidated water-rate introduced in the previous resettlement was revised. Lands registered as wet but without continuous cultivation for five years were transferred to dry and all dry lands under continuous wet cultivation for five years were classified as wet. The table at Annexure 61 indicates the money rates introduced during the initial settlement and the first resettlement⁷.

3. Anantapur District

On the expiry of the 30 years period, the district came up for resettlement⁸ Kadiri taluk was resettled in F. 1323 (1913-14); Gooty and Tadipatri in F. 1333 (1923-24); Rayadrug⁹, in F. 1334 (1924-

25) and the six red soil taluks of Anantapur¹⁰, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram, Penukonda, Hindupur and Madakasira in F. 1336 (1926-27).

No general reclassification of soils was effected in any of the taluks. The grouping of dry villages was left unaltered except in the case of six villages¹¹ of Tadipatri taluk, which were raised to the first group. There was also no general reclassification of irrigation sources, except in Kadiri taluk where they were divided according to their condition and capacity. But lands in the black soil taluks of Tadipatri and Gooty, which in ordinary seasons, had an unfailing supply of water for two wet crops, were compulsorily registered as double crop wet and assessed at 1½ times the single crop, irrespective of the classification of the sources. But the ryots in the red soil taluks were given the option to compound the second crop charge in accordance with the standard rates prescribed by the Board of Revenue. The rates of assessment were enhanced by a certain percentage in all taluks except Kadiri where the resettlement commutation rates were found to be the same as those adopted at the original settlement. The old wet and dry rates of assessment were therefore retained. Though the resettlement commutation rates showed an increase of over 50 per cent in Gooty, Tadpatri and Rayadrug taluk, the old wet and dry rates were enhanced only by 12½ per cent, the last three dry rates of annas 2, 4 and 6 being left unaltered. In the remaining taluks of Anantapar, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram, Penukonda, Hindupur and Madakasira where the resettlement commutation rates showed increases varying from 101 to 169 per cent, an enhancement of only 12½ per cent was sanctioned on wet lands, while the rates for dry were left unaltered in view of the poor economic condition of the tracts.

The actual rates of assessment fixed were in all cases less than half the net produce. In fact the assessment never reached the upper limit of 50 per cent either at the original settlement or at the resettlement. As a result of the resettlement, the net land revenue demand rose from Rs. 11.58¹² lakhs to Rs. 12.68 lakhs, Kadiri taluk alone recording a fall of about Rs. 8,000 owing chiefly to the transfer of large areas from wet to dry.

Resettlement operations were not generally found popular with ryots, as they invariably led to an increase in assessment due to the steady rise in prices. With the advent of the first Congress Ministry in 1937, resettlement operations based mainly on the comparison of price levels were ordered to be abandoned. The district would have been taken up for resettlement, as the tenure of 30 years expired between Faslis 1354 (1944-45) and 1368 (1958-59), but in view of the general policy adopted earlier in 1937, it was not conducted¹³.

Water-cess

Apart from the assessment on land, water used for irrigation from sources owned by Government is also subject to a levy known as water-cess. The Madras Irrigation Cess Act, 1865 provides the legal sanction for the levy. Compulsory water-cess is imposed on lands commanded by irrigation works notified under the Irrigation Works (Levy of Compulsory Water-Cess) Act of 1955.

Water-cess is charged when lands classed as dry or when a second crop or a dufussal crop on lands classed as single crop wet are irrigated. These charges are known as **thirvajasthi** and **faslijasti** respectively. Such charges levied in the district fall into two categories¹⁴, differential water rates prevalent only in Kadiri taluk and fixed¹⁵ water rate in force in the rest of the district. The revenue realised by way of water-cess was Rs.5,11,220 during F.1372 and Rs.5,10,320 during F.1373¹⁶.

4. Chittoor District

The district came up for resettlement on the expiry of the 30 year period. No general reclassification of soils was made in Chandragiri and Chittoor taluks. The dry grouping of villages was also left unaltered. A regrouping of irrigation sources was, however, made and all irrigation sources were placed in one of the five classes. The commutation rates of paddy calculated during resettlement showed that there was a rise of 70 per cent, since the initial settlement. An increase of only 25 per cent was, however, ordered in the wet rates in consonance with the rest of the North Arcot district. It was also expected that the reclassification of irrigation sources would actually reduce the percentage of enhancement to 20. The actual rates introduced ranged from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 10-0-0¹⁷.

In regard to dry lands, though the average prices of dry grains had not increased since the original settlement, the three highest dry rates were enhanced from Rs. 2-4-0. Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 1-6-0 to Rs. 2-8-

0, Rs. 2-0-0 and Rs. 1-8-0 respectively in view of the high sale prices which these lands commanded. The other four rates were left unaltered. The actual new rates ranged from Re. 0-6-0 to Rs. 2-8-0. As regards Palamaner taluk, the wet rates were raised ranging from Rs. 2-6-0 to Rs. 8-6-0, while no change was effected in the dry rates. The new rates were introduced in Chittoor and Chandragiri taluks in 1324 F. (1914-15) and in Palamaneru in 1325 F. (1915-16).

No changes were effected either in dry or wet rates in Vayalpad and Madanapalle taluks during resettlement. The only change made was that the irrigation sources were divided into five classes. No source in the two taluks was, however, found fit to be placed in the I class. Resettlement was introduced in Vayalpad taluk in 1321 F. (1911-12) and Madanapalle in the next year. The table at Annexure 60 indicates the money rates introduced by the original settlement and the resettlement. No resettlement operations were undertaken in subsequent years as the first Congress Ministry formed in 1937 ordered the abandonment of resettlement operations based mainly on a comparison of price levels.

The rest of the district continued to consist of permanently settled estates till 1958, when new rates on the principles of resettlement were introduced after their abolition under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948¹⁸.

District-wise particulars of the extent of lands assessed and amounts of assessment in Rayalaseema, 1893-94 to 1920-21

S. No.	District	F.1303 (1893-94)	F.1308 (1898-99)	F.1321 (1911-12)	F.1330 (1920-21)
(a)	In terms of extent (in acres)				
1	Cuddapah	12,82,300	13,01,163	8,32,535	8,75,809
2	Kurnool	12,69,838	12,71,701	14,09,162	14,51,799
3	Anantapur	10,22,945	11,24,167	13,77,049	15,37,346
4	Chittoor	-	-	4,15,389	4,78,729
Total		3575083	3697031	4034135	4343683
(b)	In terms of assessment (in Rupees)				
1	Cuddapah	16,36,871	16,25,682	11,35,686	11,89,682
2	Kurnool	13,29,482	13,26,004	14,90,144	15,11,089
3	Anantapur	8,14,754	8,77,330	9,85,031	10,23,955
4	Chittoor	-	-	5,72,925	6,94,946
Total		3781107	3829016	4183786	4419672

Sources: Complied from MLR Rs. For Fasli 1303 (1893-94), p.54; Fasli 1308 (1898-99), p.56; Fasli 1321 (1911-12), p.20; and Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Rev. and Sett.), No.89, dated 25 July 1922, p.22.

Note: The steep fall in the extent of lands assessed in Fasli 1321 (1911-12) in Cuddapah District was an effect of its two taluks, Madanapalle and Vayalpadu, being transferred to Chittoor district on its formation in 1911¹⁹.

The extent of the assessed land, as the Table shows, increased by 21.5 per cent, that is, from 35,75,083 acres to 43,43,683 acres, and the amount of assessment increased by 16 per cent, that is, from Rs.37,81,107 to Rs.44,19,672 during the period between 1893 and 1921 whereas the prices rose more than two-fold during the same period. These factors indicate that the land revenue administration was based, by and large, on rational lines keeping in view the sustenance of the ryots who contributed a major share of revenue to the exchequer²⁰.

References

¹ Moir, as Special Settlement Officer, dealt with all the taluks in the district except Rayachoti which was taken up by Davies. Brackenbury completed the resettlement of the district.

²The problem of Government's claim in this increment was the subject of a

discussion between Moir and the Board of Revenue, the former arguing against and the latter in favour. Ultimately Government upheld Moir's contention.

³ Bh. Sivasankaranarayana(ed),A.P District Gazetteers,Cuddapah District,Hyderabad1967,p. 501

⁴ As the rates in the taluk were not found unequal by Davies, as in the other taluks, there was no general reclassification of soils or alteration of rates.

⁵ Shrotriem means originally a village granted to Brahmins well – versed in Vedas.

⁶ Bh Sivasankara Narayana, n. 3, p. 502

⁷ M.V. Raja Gopal, A.P. District Gazetteers, Kurnool District, Hyderabad , p. 156

⁸ The scheme report relating to the resettlement of Kadiri taluk was prepared by R.W. Davies, I.C.S., that of Gooty and Tadipatri taluks by J. Venkatanarayana Naidu and that of Rayadrug taluk and the six red soil taluks of Anantapur, Kalyandrug. Dharmavaram, Penukonda, Hindupur and Madakastra by A. Venkatarama Ayyar.

⁹ 21 Villages of Rayadrug Taluk transferred to Kalyandrug taluk in 1895 were resettled along with the rest of Rayadrug taluk. Two villages (Hanumapuram and Mavinamaradanahalli) transferred from Rayadrug to Anantapur taluk were resettled along with Anantapur.

¹⁰ Sixteen villages of old Gooty taluk transferred to Anantapur taluk in 1910 were resettled along with the Anantapur taluk.

¹¹ They are Mutchkota, Arakatayemula, Chintkunta, Surepalli, Doseledu and Chalavemula.

¹² This excludes figures relating to Rayadurg taluk.

¹³ Bh. Sivasankara Narayana, A.P. District Gazetteers,Anantapur District, Hyderabad, pp. 519-520

¹⁴ The Principle involved in the differential water rate system is that when a dry land is irrigated the appropriate water rate to be charged is the difference between the wet assessment and the corresponding dry assessment for the same class and sort of lands.

¹⁵ Under the fixed water rate system, water cess is levied at fixed rates on all lands alike, varying only according to the nature and duration of crops and classification of the irrigation sources but not depending on the nature of the soil. The rates charged under this system fall again into two sub – categories namely (1) the rates prescribed under the standard scale of water-cess and (2) the special rates prescribed under the various projects.

¹⁶ Bh. Sivanakara Naryana, n. 13, p 521

¹⁷ Dr. N. Ramesan, (ed), A.P. District Gazetteers,Chittoor District, Hyderabad, 2, p. 126

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 127

¹⁹ P. Yanadi Raju,Evolution of Indian Nationalism,1858 – 1920, Bombay: tirupati , p. 41

²⁰ Ibid, p. 42