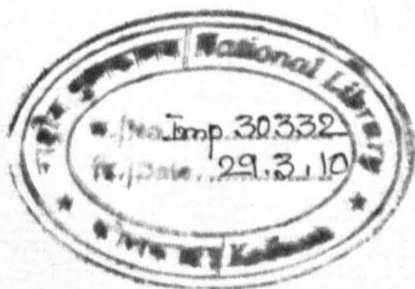


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Famine Report of the Sarila State from January to September, 1906.

1. The years anterior to the famine of 1906, were not altogether free from agricultural misfortune. In 1903-04, a good rainfall of 37.73 inches was followed by good harvest, but in 1904-05 the rainfall of 37.84 inches was so untimely that the kharif suffered greatly and the rabi crops which might have benefited by it were much injured by the unprecedented frost.

2. In 1905-06 the rainfall was only 19.42 inches and even that was unevenly distributed, with the result that the kharif suffered considerably, especially in the villages of Karyari, Rigwara and in the part of Sarila Khas. As for the rabi it promised well but was greatly damaged by hailstones in the villages of Sarila Khas, Chhiauli, Rigwara, Parchha and Bargawan. Still the average outturn was about 12 annas in the rupee. For this the State has to thank the excellence of its *mar* land: things were very different on the inferior soils of the neighbouring districts of Jalaun and Hamirpur.

3. The tract affected comprised the whole State with its 11 villages, an area of 35 square miles and a population of 6,298. The soils include *kabar*, *parwa* and *rankar* as well as *mar*. Distress was aggravated by scarcity of water and of fodder. Signs of impending famine were first noticed in November or December, 1905, but it was not till the rabi was damaged by hail in February, 1906, that the ryots began to cry for help. Suspensions of land revenue were then sanctioned by the Political Agent and Circle Inspectors were appointed to examine the condition of the people.

Their combined report runs as follows :—

“ The majority of the labouring classes are unable to secure employment in consequence of the failure of the kharif and rabi crops: they are, however, loath to leave their homes and ask the State to find them work in proximity to their villages. The number of the old, infirm and crippled who can neither support themselves nor count on being supported by their relatives is very small indeed, and they have been instructed to repair to a poor-house at Sarila where food would be provided for them. The villages are as clean as usual, there has been no mortality due to starvation and there is no disease among men or animals: nor, so far, has there been any emigration from the State ”.

4. On receipt of this report the State officials proceeded to comfort and reassure the people, and inspection showed that the report was substantially correct. The distress, thanks to timely measures of relief, was never severe. In June the monsoon appeared and the cultivators once more found work for themselves and the labouring classes in the fields; taccavi was given for the purchase of bullock and fresh grass sprung up and provided fodder, till finally with the harvest of sawan (smaller grain) in September, 1906, all signs of distress were at an end.

5. The poor-house at Sarila Khas was opened on the 8th February, 1906, and closed on the 30th September, 1906. Every care was taken to administer it under the rules in the Famine Code and Hand-book, the Kamdar and the

Hospital Assistant inspecting it daily, and in all 6,527 units were relieved, or a daily average of 27, at a cost of Rs. 435-14-6, or 1 anna 9 pies per diem a piece, made up as follows :—

					Rs. a. p.
Dieting	...	...	...	...	373 1 3
Clothing	...	...	...	...	38 8 0
Dhimar	...	...	...	...	24 5 3
Total					435 14 6

The following was the diet given to each inmate daily :—

					Flour.	Dal.	Salt.
					Ch.	Ch.	Ch.
Man	...	...	...	...	8	1	$\frac{1}{4}$
Woman	...	...	...	...	7	1	$\frac{1}{8}$
Child above 7 years	.	...	...	...	5	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$
Child under 7 years	...	...	...	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{8}$

A Kahar woman was employed to supply water. A child was born in the poor-house in September, the State supplying the mother's simple requirements at a cost of Rs. 1-14-9.

6. To the great satisfaction of the people who could earn their livelihood by manual labour, the Political Agent had already sanctioned the construction of a metalled road from Sarila eastwards to join eventually at Jalalpur the metalled road under construction by the Baoni State from Jalalpur to the Railway Station at Kalpi, and the necessary preliminaries such as the preparation of plans and estimates had been put in hand as early as December, 1905. The contractors were now ordered to push on the work and to employ only residents of the State.

On the 9th March the Political Agent, to provide work for villages situated in the western half of the State, sanctioned the construction of a raised but unmetalled road westwards from Sarila to join at Khera-Salajit, the similar road connecting the Railway Stations of Harpalpur, Ata and Kalpi through the important market of Rath. At the same time to improve the water supply in case the next monsoon too proved a failure, he ordered the deepening of two tanks at Bargawan and Jariya, while to meet the needs of the artisans a few buildings such as quarters for the Hospital Staff, the School, and the ruined Garhi were also put in hand.

The following table will show the works carried out by the State from December, 1905, to October, 1906 :—

					Cost.
					Rs. a. p.
Repairs to 5 tanks	...	...	...	...	502 12 9
Repairs to a small bandh at Sarila	...	...	...	...	3 5 3
Construction of school buildings	...	...	...	...	3,022 7 9
Repairs to 12 wells	...	...	...	...	188 13 3
Construction of quarters for the Hospital Staff	...	...	...	...	1,749 14 9
Repairs to buildings	...	...	...	...	1,004 1 3
Construction of Kalpi-Sarila road (metalled work)	...	...	...	...	2,794 12 9
Construction of Khera-Salajit road (unmetalled)	...	...	...	...	914 15 0
Repairs to a country track	...	...	...	...	12 5 9
Total					10,193 8 6

All these public works have been carried out very satisfactorily ; the coolies employed were mostly residents of the State. The State Engineer in Bundelkhand took a deep interest in these works and he was pleased to issue strict orders to his subordinates employed at Sarila that every thing should be done to the entire satisfaction of the State.

The number of units relieved on works was 36,217, at a cost of Rs. 5,849-11-9, while the total number relieved altogether was 42,744, at a cost of Rs. 14,451-3-2. The latter figure includes Rs. 5,230, the cost of materials, and Rs. 2,935 sent to the State Engineer for works in progress after September, 1906.

7. Much, too, was done to encourage the people by the suspension of revenue and the grant of taccavi as will appear from the following table :—

Year.	TACCAVI FOR			Suspension of revenue.
	Bullocks.	Seed.	Total.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1904-05	1,400 0 0	2,500 0 0	3,900 0 0	13,259 7 0
1905-06	3,000 0 0	273 0 0	3,273 0 0	7,639 0 7
1906-07	2,867 0 0	...	2,867 0 0	...

8. The prices of food grains rose in sympathy with the scarcity in the adjacent districts of British India, as shown below :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Srs. Ch.	Srs. Ch.	Srs. Ch.
Wheat	... 16 10	17 2	10 8
Gram	... 23 12	20 12	12 5
Barley	... 24 6	22 6	12 10

Putting the outturn at 22,584 maunds of wheat, 8,761 maunds of gram and 3,410 maunds of barley, it was worth Rs. 86,038, plus Rs. 28,412, plus Rs. 10,705, or Rs. 1,25,155 in all, or Rs. 49,847 more than the value of the same outturn in 1903-1904, so that those cultivators who had good crops can hardly have suffered at all, save in respect of the loss of plough cattle for want of water and fodder. It was the cultivators whose crops failed and the labouring classes that required relief, and in all the circumstances it is matter for congratulation that in spite of high prices there was no increase in crime.

9. Public health at first was fair, and though cholera attacked the districts of Jalaun and Hamirpur soon after the great Kumbh Mela at Allahabad early in 1906, it was not till May that the disease appeared in the Sarila State. All possible measures were at once taken under the Famine Code and Hand-book and Captain Knox's "Medical Notes" to save lives and prevent the disease spreading, with the result that only 240 cases occurred, and of these only 120 died, in the villages of Chhibuli, Rigwara, Pachkura, Dandon, Parchha, Bargawan and Sarila Khas, and towards the end of June the monsoon rainfall of 13.68 inches practically swept the disease away. The Hospital Assistant, J. C. Gungoli, deserves much credit for the low percentage of deaths to cases. Thanks are due to the Political Agent and the Agency Surgeon at Nowgong for having opened the Hospital at Sarila Khas for the benefit of its subjects.

10. There was no emigration, special steps being taken to prevent it: only at the request of the Agency were coolies encouraged to seek employment on the Dhasan Canal. For the rest the contractors were strictly enjoined to employ the State people. As for immigration there was very little, but a few cases came to light on the State public works.

11. For the supply of drinking water wells were deepened and *piaos* started to supply water to men and beasts. Fodder was available in small quantities, and at the Political Agent's suggestion employment was found for cattle in the collection of *kankar* and metal for the roads.

12. There are no railways or irrigation works in the State; but the proximity of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway maintained stability in neighbouring markets. The Government of the United Provinces contemplate bringing the Dhasan Canal through parts of Sarila, and had famine continued the work would have been a useful adjunct to the famine programme of the State.

13. The Famine Code and Hand-book proved eminently well adapted for the object in view. It is by conforming to the directions contained in those works that the poor-house proved so successful that no deaths occurred among the inmates. The works undertaken were not relief works in the technical sense of the word, but in their case, too, Colonel Dunlop Smith's observations proved generally very useful and suggestive. The success of the measures taken may be gauged from the fact that there was no mortality and no emigration and that the cultivated area has not diminished. The revenue suspended will be collected without difficulty, and the future outlook is good.

14. No special famine establishment was entertained; the revenue officers acted as Circle Inspectors and were quite equal to the situation: they performed their duties gladly and with discretion and the State is satisfied with the exertions they made without extra remuneration. It is to be noted that the Dowager Rani Sahiba was solicitous for the welfare and happiness of the people.

15. In the beginning of 1905, when the rabi crops were injured by frost, the Kamdar, the Tahsildar and the Kanungo made inspections field by field and submitted recommendations for the suspension of revenue, of which the Political Agent approved. Again in February, 1906, the crops injured by hailstones were similarly inspected and further suspensions sanctioned. The Revenue Officers then acted as Circle Inspectors, and they and the Kamdar inspected the villages and the works in progress and arranged for the provision of drinking water on sanitary principles.

16. The form of famine programme, sent by the Political Agent in April last, has been adopted, and a programme has been prepared on the lines indicated. The forms in the Famine Code and Hand-book and the Returns furnished by the State weekly and monthly to the Agency are also suitable and sufficient, and there seems to be no need to suggest additions or alterations to them or to propose new ones.

17. In the end it is our prime duty to remark that our able and worthy Political Agent, W. E. Jardine, Esq., I.C.S., and the Agency Surgeon, Captain R. W. Knox, took a deep interest in every thing and spared no pains to

issue kind instructions for the relief of the distressed people. They were so good as to visit the State during February, 1906, when the famine was in progress, and gave much advice personally on the spot regarding the collection of kankars, metal, etc., and the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of disease. The State is under a deep obligation for the trouble they took. The saving of the lives of many people and cattle is due to them, and that is a great blessing upon us. The sanction of so many large public works was of great interest to the State and the people; and the carrying out of these works under the Public Works Department was most successful in every respect. Our hearty thanks are also due to the State Engineer, Sardar Gurmaukh Singh, who, as an able and experienced officer of the Engineering Department, could carry out every thing to the entire satisfaction of every one concerned. Much more we are deeply indebted to the Political Agent who has very ably arranged for the opening of this Department. In other words, it can safely be remarked that there is no doubt every truth in the saying that these works cannot be carried out by any State official except a special Public Works Department having an able and experienced Engineer at its head with sufficient and fitting establishment under him. It will be a happy idea if all the States concerned give their best attention in this connection and place sufficient funds at the disposal of the State Engineer for the requirements of his Department with the permission of the Political Agent to whose efforts all this is due.

APPENDIX I.
SARILA STATE.

Statement showing number of units relieved in all ways.

Month.	Population.	TOTAL NUMBER RELIEVED.					Ratio to population.	TOTAL CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX.			REMARKS.
		On relief works.	As dependants on works.	In poor-houses.	By village relief.	Total.		Men.	Women.	Children.	
January, 1906	6,298	3,729	3,729	1.90	1,234	1,831	664	Some people had gone to work on Dhasan Canal in April, 1906, and returned in September, 1906. Taking an average the rough total of units relieved on the canal work comes to 8,000.
February „	3,930	...	169	...	4,099	2.32	2,106	1,524	469	
March „	4,373	...	503	...	4,876	2.49	2,563	1,720	593	
April „	5,861	...	839	...	6,700	3.54	4,817	1,378	505	
May „	7,172	...	725	...	7,897	4.04	5,713	1,879	305	
June „	7,052	...	722	...	7,774	4.11	4,978	2,167	629	
July „	1,943	...	1,266	...	3,209	1.64	2,012	816	381	
August „	1,378	...	1,228	...	2,606	1.33	1,765	505	336	
September „	779	...	1,075	...	1,854	.09	1,022	532	300	
Total	36,217	...	6,527	...	42,744	...	26,210	12,352	4,182	

NOTE.—Incidence for units relieved on works is 2 annas 7 pies per head. The works were mostly carried out under Public Works Department, and most of the works were masonry works. Incidence for units relieved in the poor-house is 1 anna 25 pie per head.

APPENDIX II.
SARILA STATE.

Actual cost of Famine Relief from January to September, 1906.

Month.	On relief works.	On poor-houses and other gratuitous relief.	OTHER EXPENDITURE.		Total.	LOANS AND OTHER ADVANCES.				LAND REVENUE.		Recoverable (total of columns No. 10 and 11).	REMARKS.
			Miscellaneous expenditure.	Supervision.		Land improvement loans.	Takavi for bullocks and seed.	Other advances.	Total.	Suspended.	Remitted.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	
January, 1906 ...	11 5 9	4 0 0	15 5 9	In column (4) cost of material is included. Rs. 2,935 shown in August has been sent to the State Engineer for the expenditure on works still incomplete. The cost of material Rs. 5,230 and the sum of Rs. 2,935 sent to the State Engineer for works done after September have been excluded in calculating the cost of relief per unit.
February „ ...	549 1 0	9 11 0	56 14 0	123 3 0	738 13 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March „ ...	0 6 0	30 13 6	...	...	31 3 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April „ ...	1,069 2 9	61 11 3	610 4 9	187 12 0	1,928 14 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May „ ...	2,094 5 0	46 12 3	146 8 3	40 0 0	2,327 9 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June „ ...	1,861 8 3	56 8 9	3,883 14 11	108 0 0	5,903 15 11	...	...	...	...	7,639 0 7	...	...
July „ ...	170 0 0	82 7 6	19 5 9	...	271 13 3	...	2,867 0 0	...	*2,867 0 0	10,506 0 7	* For bullocks only, for kharif, Sambat 1903.
August „ ...	49 8 0	67 6 3	2,935 0 0	...	3,051 14 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September „ ...	44 7 0	61 2 3	...	50 0 0	155 9 3	The amount shown in column (13) Rs.10,506-0-7 is recoverable.
Total ...	5,849 11 9	416 8 9	7,651 15 8	512 15 0	14,431 3 2	...	2,867 0 0	...	2,867 0 0	7,639 0 7	...	10,506 0 7	

APPENDIX III.

SARILA STATE.

Detail of Relief Works and Poor-houses carried out in the Sarila State from January 1906 to September 1906.

Name of State.	Population.	Nature of Relief.	Total cost.	AREA FORMERLY CULTIVATED.		FUTURE CULTURABLE AREA.		Profit.	REMARKS.
				Area.	Revenue.	Area.	Revenue.		
Sarila 	6,298	12 Wells 	Rs. a. p. 188 13 3	In Sarila cultivation depends on rains, and wells and tanks are used for supplying drinking water to men and cattle, and not for irrigation purposes.
		5 Tanks 	502 12 9	...	...	...	...	...
		1 Bandh (small one) 	3 5 3	...	...	...	...	...
		3 Roads 	3,722 1 6	...	...	...	...	...
		3 Buildings 	5,776 7 9	...	...	...	...	...
		Total ...	10,193 8 6	...	...	...	...	...
		1 Poor-house 	435 14 6	...	...	...	...	...
		GRAND TOTAL ...	10,629 7 0	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX IV. SARILA STATE.

*Statement showing Agricultural Stock in Sarila State before
or after the Famine.*

Name.	Sambat. 1959.	Sambat 1960.	Sambat 1961.	Sambat 1962.	Sambat 1963.	REMARKS.
Cows	1,434	...	
Bullocks	1,548	...	
Male buffaloes	95	...	
Female buffaloes	859	...	
Sheep and goats	937	...	
*Ploughs	551	...	*Exclusive of Pahi kashtkars.
Carts	369	...	



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