

HYDERABAD STATE

	State post	British Indian post
Number of post offices	248	38
Number of letter boxes	289	64
Number of miles of postal communication	4, 910 1/4	6,461, 073
Total number of postal articles delivered	6, 683, 718	3,235, 177
Letters	5, 612, 302	1, 920, 735
Post-cards	1, 033, 560	525, 807
Packets (including unregistered newspapers)	...	
Newspapers (registered as newspapers in the Post office)	...	734, 954
Parcels	37, 856	44, 400
Value of stamps sold to the public	Rs. 99, 245	84, 715
Value of money orders issued	Rs. ...	43, 32, 662
Total amount of savings bank deposits	Rs. ...	9, 01, 150

Famine

The Nizam's Dominions, in common with other parts of India, are subject to periodical visitations of famine of a more or less severe character. It is recorded that 1629, 1659, and 1685 were famine years, while in the eighteenth century there were famines in 1713, 1747, and 1787. In the nineteenth century famine or scarcity was experienced at eleven periods: namely, 1804, 1813, 1819, 1846, 1854, 1862, 1866, 1871, 1876-7, 1896-7, and 1899-1900. There are no records of famine relief measures prior to 1876. In that year the rains failed, and the Districts affected were Lingsugur, Raichur, Gulbarga, Bhir and Osmanabad (Naldrug) in the Districts of Nalgonda and Mahbubnagar (Nagar Karnool) there was no famine, but the distress caused by scarcity was severe. The whole of the State, in fact, suffered, as prices of food rose very high, and famine-stricken people migrated from the affected Districts. Relief works were started in October, 1876 and were finally closed in November, 1877. During this period $6\frac{1}{4}$ million units were provided with work, and 2 millions were relieved in poorhouses. The cost of this famine, excluding remissions of land revenue,

was $13\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. In 1890 the rains again failed in parts of the southern Districts, in which relief was given by opening works and remitting revenue.

1896-97

A more severe famine appeared imminent in 1896, but was fortunately averted by good rains in November, which saved the standing *rabi* crops. Although there was no famine, the distress was very severe in some parts, owing to heavy exports of grain to adjoining British famine-stricken territory, and to a local failure of crops. The whole of the Districts of Raichur and Lingsugur, and parts of Gulbarga, Osmanabad, and Bhir, comprising an area of 10,278 square miles with a population of $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, were involved in distress. In July, 1897, the affected area increased to 17,835 square miles, with a population of 2,400,000 but a sufficient fall of rain in August averted famine. The total expenditure on relief was $7\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs.

1899-1900

In 1899 the rainfall received was only $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or less than half the usual quantity. In the Aurangabad and Gulbarga Divisions the latter rains failed entirely, and the area affected in 1900 was 23,007 square miles with a population (1891) of 3,573,651. In addition to this, scarcity was felt in an area of 51,541 square miles with a population of 6,512,379. The *kharif* harvest in the famine Districts was estimated at 25 percent of the normal, and in the *rabi* harvest the largest foodcrop yielded not more than 12 per cent. The census of 1901 showed a net decrease of 394,898 persons; and if a normal rate of increase be assumed, the total loss must have been nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million persons, in spite of an expenditure on relief of more than two crores. In 1899 the Government of India lent two crores to the State, for expenditure of famine relief.

Tract subject to famine

Raichur, Gulbarga, and Lingsugur are the Districts which are generally the first to suffer from a failure of rains, and are more liable to famine than any other part of the State. Failure of the monsoon rains means the failure of the *kharif* harvest, which provides about half the staple food- grains of the people; and if the late or autumn rains fail, the *rabi* crops also *suffer*, which means that besides his Linsced and weat the cultivator losses the whole of the white *jowar* which forms the largest food grain crop of the state.

Famine warnings

The first indications of famine are a sharp rise in the prices of grain. If the crops fail in the neighbouring Districts or Provinces, there is a sudden influx of immigrants in search of work. Sometimes sufficient grain is produced for the local needs; but if there be famine outside the country, grain is largely exported, resulting in high prices. This was actually the case in 1899-1900. The rains failed in 1899, and grain began to be exported largely to the Bombay Presidency, where 90,000 persons were on relief works by November 11, 1899.

Prevention of famine

The system of land assessment in the Maratha or 'dry-crop' Districts was based on that of the Bombay Presidency, and no remissions are ordinarily given for a failure of crops. The famine of 1900 so affected the people that special orders were given for extensive remissions in this tract, and the total loss to Government under this head was not less than 45 lakhs. For the Telingana Districts extensive irrigation schemes have been prepared, while in Marathwara the protective measures include the extension and maintenance of roads and the construction of wells. In times of famine food and rations are given to those able to work, and poorhouses are established for the infirm and decrepit. Loans are advanced to the ryots

to enable them to purchase cattle, and cheap grain shops are opened for the relief of others.

Administration,
the Minister and
Council

The present form of administration was prescribed by the original instructions issued by the Nizam in the *Kanuncha (edict)* of 1893, subsequently modified in some respects. According to those, the *Madar-ul-Maham* or Minister is the chief controlling authority in the State. To assist him in the work of administration there are four Assistant Ministers: namely, Financial, Judicial, Military and Miscellaneous, known as *Muin-ul-Mahams*. All questions of importance are referred to the Council, which is composed of the Minister as president and the *Muin-ul-Mahams* as members. Matters on which there is a difference of opinion between the Minister and an Assistant Minister may also be referred to the Council. Business disposed of by the Council is immediately reported to the Nizam, and the orders of the Council are carried out without awaiting his sanction unless he is pleased otherwise to direct.

Distribution
of work

The work is distributed as follows: The Financial Assistant Minister has charge of the departments of finance, mint, railways and mines, and stud. The Judicial Assistant Minister has under him the judicial department, jails, registration, medical, post office, and religious institutions. The Military Assistant Minister disposes of the work of the regular and irregular and the Imperial Service troops; and the Miscellaneous Assistant Minister has under him police, public works, education, municipalities, and sanitation. The Revenue department is directly under the Minister who exercises control over the departments of land revenue, revenue survey and settlement, *inam*, customs, excise and *abkari*, forests, agriculture and commerce, and local funds. The Secretaries are responsible for the work of their