

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 289.L.

DATED 17-2-98

INDEXED.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Relief works.

Recording L. C. Rev. Deptl. approving the Collector's proposals to open — on the gang and pucca work system in the Atma Kur firka, in the Kellore St. and stating that orders will issue in the Pub. Works Deptl. for expediting the preparation of estimates for the Anama-Samudram - Birasaru Channel and for the execution of the work without the intervention of Contractors, and that the preparation in connection with the Anantasa-garam main Channel should be pushed forward to enable the works to be started at short notice.

BACK PAPERS.

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Government (1898) of Madras. REVENUE.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL D.
CURRENT No. 362 &

Recd. 9th Feb. } 1898.
Regd.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 44, 26th January 1898.

n
n *Order No. 289* *Luis*
Recorded *17.2.98*

JANUARY.

V.B. *16/2/98* *16/2*

Copy to the President, Bd. Bd., Nellore.

Supd 18/2/98

Relief Works.

Approving the Collector's proposals to open — on the gang and piece-work system in the Atmakur firka, in the Nellore district, and stating that orders will issue in the Public Works Department for expediting the preparation of estimates for the Anamasamudram-Biraperu channel and for the execution of the work without the intervention of contractors, and that the preparation in connection with the Anantasagaram main channel should be pushed forward to enable the works to be started at short notice.

16/2/98
15/2/98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 13, dated 11th January 1898 :—

Read—the following letter from E. SCOTT, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Famine Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th January 1898, No. 13-Ver. :—

In continuation of paragraph 2 of this office letter, Ref. No. 2680-Ver., dated 22nd December 1897, and with reference to paragraph 5 of B.P., Mis. No. 10177, dated 28th December 1897, I have the honour to submit the following report regarding the condition of the Atmakúr taluk.

2. Remarks as to the condition of crops, &c., up to end of November last are contained in this office letter, No. 3968-Ver., dated 4th December 1897. The rainfall up to the end of November in the taluk was only 15.13 inches against an average of 28.03 inches and of this only 4.16 inches fell in October and November against an average of 17.63 inches for these two months. Since the close of November the only rainfall was on the 30th and 31st December and it rained from 2.10 inches to .30 inches in different villages as shown below :—

	ACS.		ACS.
Atmakúr ...	0.88	Kolagatla ...	0.50
Battepad ...	0.85	Bathulapalli ...	1.00
Kalikivaya ...	1.20	Peramana ...	0.60
Kavali-Yedavalli ...	0.50	Kaluvoya ...	2.10
Dubagunta ...	0.90	Nagulapad ...	0.30
Chiramana ...	0.40	Vasili ...	0.70
Virur ...	1.25	Punugodu ...	1.25
Karatampodu ...	1.50	Anamasamudram ...	0.50
Boylacheruvella ...	1.20	Gudipad ...	0.40
Srikolanu ...	1.10	Aravedu ...	0.90
Chejerla ...	1.90	Mangupalli ...	0.50

This rain has generally helped the dry crops which had not already perished. It was, however, not general throughout the taluk, the extreme north and north-western portions not having received any.

3. The Anantasagaram tank, which is the largest in the taluk with registered double-crop lands, has a supply of 3—5 months, which is said to be sufficient for standing crops. Two other tanks, viz., Uppalapad and Kaluvoya have two months' supply. Five tanks, viz., Mangupalli, Patallapalli, Padamatikambampad and the Pongur tanks have a supply of a month and more, while the supply in the Bommaravaram, Dharmarowcheruvupalli, Atmakúr and Amanichiruvella tanks varies from twenty days to one week and is said to be in these tanks insufficient for the standing wet crops. Probably, the crops under tanks with less than one week's supply will almost entirely fail while in other cases the yield will be middling or good. Lands under the river-channels command sufficient irrigation.

4. The standing crops are paddy, cholam, ragi, cotton, oil-seeds and indigo. Paddy under river-channels is in good condition. An extent of 1,443 acres of paddy crop has already withered entirely in thirteen villages. In the Devarayapalli and the Chejerla ranges and under the Vasili tank in the Atmakúr range, where tanks received inadequate supplies, dry crops have been raised in place of wet crops. Cholam has failed over 5,300 acres. Out of a total area of 12,950 acres of aruga, 2,000 acres in seventeen villages has been lost. Elsewhere, it is expected to revive with the recent rains. Cotton and oil-seeds are reported to be fair.

5. The marginally-noted table gives the prices of food-grains for the last five weeks. It will be

Week ending.	Rice, 2nd sort.	Cholam.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
4th December 1897 ..	9.87	..	13.60	..
11th " " ..	9.87	..	13.60	..
18th " " ..	9.40	13.12	13.60	..
25th " " ..	8.46	11.77	11.90	..
1st January 1898 ..	8.46	11.77	11.90	..
Scarcity rate ..	8.40	13.00	14.00	..

seen therefrom that the prices of the first three food-grains—rice, cholam and ragi, as they stand at present, have either reached scarcity rates or exceeded them. It will be observed that prices

rose considerably in the latter part of December, and have since remained stationary.

6. The stock of food-grains is reported to be 900 putties of paddy, 165 of cholam, 435 of ragi, and 120 of cumbu and is said to be sufficient for one and half months more. Merchants are now importing paddy and cumbu from Nellore and elsewhere.

7. Fodder is reported to be insufficient, especially in Atmakúr firka, and no pasture is available. Cattle are generally still in fair condition, though cattle-diseases prevail in a few villages.

8. As regards the condition of the labouring classes, the Deputy Collector of Atmakur reports in his letter, dated 3rd January 1898, as follows :—

"The cooly classes in these villages are suffering very much for want of work and some of them are going to Udayagiri, Madras and other places in search of labour. There is great clamour for work and I am afraid, if works are not provided at once, people will have to starve."

In firkas other than Atmakúr, the condition of the people is reported to be good.

9. The foregoing facts go to show that while the season has not been a good one, it has not been a very bad one, and it should not be necessary to provide State relief to any large extent. I had hoped that none would be necessary, but the continued high prices and the almost complete cessation of any demand for labourers in parts has made some necessary. As noted in paragraph 7, the tract where relief is required is the Atmakúr firka, which is marked in the rough sketch of the taluk enclosed. To provide labour, I think it will be unnecessary to resort to any regular relief works, and I would recommend instead the excavation by the Public Works Department of the Biraperu-Anamasamudram channel on the gang and piece-work system without the intervention of contractors in addition to repairs to a few minor irrigation tanks. An estimate for the Biraperu channel amounting to about Rs. 12,500, should be nearly ready as I have addressed the Executive Engineer of the Nellore Division in the marginally-noted* two communications

* Reference No. 2335-Ver., dated 17th December 1897.

Reference No. 37-Ver., dated 2nd January 1898.

	RS.
† Repairs to Peda Annalur tank ...	935
" to Kakarlapodu tank ...	620
" to Pongur tank-bund ...	300
" to Kotitirtham tank ...	891
" to Nagulavallatur tank ...	280
" to Budamagunta tank ...	360
" to supply channel } ...	100
" to Gollapalli tank } ...	100
" to Prabhagiripatnam small tank } ...	120
Total ...	3,106

to get the estimate ready as speedily as possible; the work is a thoroughly useful one and, under any circumstances, should be carried out as soon as possible. The minor irrigation works to be executed are noted in the margin† and I have this day submitted an application through the Chief Engineer for allotments for their execution. I propose to have them executed on the system referred to above. These works will, I hope, suffice, at any rate, for the next two or three months. Should further relief be necessary, the Anantasagaram supply channel work, costing Rs. 26,500, and the other road works included in the list enclosed in this office letter quoted above, would have to be taken up.

10. I request that very early orders may be passed for the execution of the works. In anticipation of Board's sanction, I am authorizing the Deputy Collector to start such of the tank works as he considers, are required to provide immediate labour.

11. The Deputy Collector, Atmakur, reports that applications for loans for sinking wells have been received. He has been requested to push the applications through as rapidly as possible.

Resolution—No. 13, dated 11th January 1898.

The Collector's report on the condition of the Atmakur taluk will be submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 10177, dated 28th December 1897.

2. The rainfall of December was slight and partial, and nearly 1,500 acres of wet crops and over 7,000 acres of dry crops are reported to have already perished. The prices of the staple dry food-grains have risen above the scarcity rate and that of rice has nearly touched it. The condition of the people is stated to be good except in the Atmakur firka, where the labouring classes are reported to be in want of work.

3. The Collector considers that State relief to any large extent will not be necessary, but that in the Atmakur firka employment for the labouring classes should be provided by starting some works on the gang and piece-work system without the intervention of contractors. The works recommended are the excavation, by the Public Works Department, of the Biraperu-Anamasamudram channel, for which an estimate for Rs. 12,500 is under preparation, and the repairs of nine minor irrigation works, estimated to cost Rs. 3,106. The Board approves of the Collector's proposals, and recommends that orders be issued in the Public Works Department to begin the channel work on the gang and piece-work system as early as possible.

4. The Collector's action in authorising the execution of the minor irrigation repairs in anticipation of sanction is approved.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Famine Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with sketch.
„ Collector of Nellore.

ORDER—No. 44, Revenue, dated 26th January 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Collector's proposals are approved.

2. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department for expediting the preparation of estimates for the Anamasamudram-Biraperu channel and for the execution of the work without the intervention of contractors. It appears from a previous report of the Collector that the estimate for the Anantasagaram tank main channel has already been sent up for sanction; preparations in connection with this channel should be pushed forward so as to enable the local officers to start the work at short notice.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).

„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

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