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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works

DEPARTMENT.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd August 1864.*

No. 449. Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Chatterpoor, 6th August 1864, No. 172:—

SIR,

1. I observe from the list of sums apportioned to different lines of road in this District (Order of Government No. 1,941, dated the 4th ultimo,) that Rupees 13,000 have been allotted to the line from Russelcondah in the direction of Sonepoor; Rupees 8,000 from Local Fund (Income Tax) to two projected lines of road commencing from Aska, one leading north-east towards Kurcholy and the other to Russelcondah via Bulleepudra. A further sum of Rupees 5,000 is apportioned to a road lately sanctioned from Aska via Sooradah to Darungabadi and to a Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at the latter place.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Colonel Chambers, has already pointed out that unless a sum of 15,000 Rupees can be allotted to the last named road and building the services of Captain Magnay, who is in special charge of the work, must be dispensed with, and the undertaking itself abandoned before it is half completed.

3. As there appears to be no prospect of assistance from the "Reserve Fund," I propose that a sum of 10,000 Rupees should be appropriated to the Sooradah and Darungabadi works from the amount set apart for the three lines of road enumerated at the commencement of this letter; I shall proceed to show that the early prosecution of these undertakings is by no means of equal importance with the completion of the new road into the Khond Malias of Sooradah.

4. The road from Russelcondah leading by way of the Kalingia Ghât, and through the Boad country to Sonepoor on the Mahanuddy, has now been completed to a point above the Ghâts and approaching the boundaries of this Presidency, and it is practicable for carts, at least as far as Kalingia, a village at the head of the Ghât. But the more difficult passes which have to be rendered practicable for wheel carriages in the Boad country together with the whole line of road which is to commence at Sonepoor and meet our work at some intermediate point, have not even been commenced, and no cart will be able to traverse this line to Sonepoor for several years to come. All that is necessary, therefore, in reference to our share of the work, is that the annual maintenance allowance should be applied to preserving the line of road which we have already completed. A large portion or even the whole of the funds allotted to this project may for the current year therefore be diverted without prejudice to its completion at a period sufficiently early to meet the line from Sonepoor.

5. As regards the road to Kurcholy it has now been ascertained that throughout the dry season an excellent natural cart track exists, and a wing of the 11th Regiment has lately marched by this route to Sumbulpore. Moreover, when our work reaches its limits on the confines of the District, we learn from the Commissioner of Cuttack that it is by no means certain that the Bengal Government will undertake the continuation through Nyaghur to the road on the banks of the Mahanuddy.

6. Again, the line from Aska to Russelcondah via Bulleepudra being parallel to the road already opened between the first mentioned places and at no great distance from it, is perhaps the least important line in the District and, as I had the honor to point out to the Superintending Engineer, is altogether insignificant in value as compared with the line from Aska to Ganjam port and Salt pans via the Hautghur Estate and Poorooshottapore, a road which has been altogether postponed in favor of these projects.

7. I earnestly hope, therefore, that the Government will permit a revision of the application given to the funds destined to expenditure on new roads, and that at least the Sooradah line may have precedence of any other undertaking.

8. I do not here dwell upon the importance of completing this road as early as possible, because the Government are, I believe, fully convinced of the advantages to be gained by an easy way of access to a country which has occasioned us at various times both trouble and anxiety, and the development of which, even in a commercial point of view, is most desirable.

9. To avoid delay I send this letter direct to Madras, and am forwarding a copy to Colonel Chambers with a request that he will submit his views on my proposal in the same manner.

No. 450.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd August 1864, No. 2,409.

See G. O. No. 2,326, dated 15th August 1864.

Application having been made to the Government of India for a special grant of Rupees 15,000, for the Aska and Darungabadi road, the transfer of funds recommended in this letter is unnecessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.

„ Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

