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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1023—24	Press
B.P.—No.		Mis.
44-48.		
Dated	2. 4.	1948.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 77 Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 13th January 1873, No 14 I —

Progress of Irrigation Works in Madras during 1871-72.

Read the following Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 4th December 1872, No 110

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter, No. 126, of the 1st October last, forwarding copies of a statement received from the Government of Madras, showing the progress made on works under execution from Loan Funds in that Presidency during the year 1871-72, and of your observations thereon.

2 The results shown in this statement must certainly, as you remark, be regarded as "very unsatisfactory," less than 50 per cent of the grant having been expended on works, nor can I consider the reasons assigned for the short outlay in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas sufficient to account for the slow progress of the works there, whilst the excuse of the local officer for deficient work at the anicut across the Vellaur River seems to me quite invalid

3. It should be impressed upon the Local Governments and Administrations that, in their applications for assignments from the Loan Fund, care should be taken to ascertain first whether the amounts asked for can be really utilized within the year, for it is, as you say, "of little use assigning funds annually, if only one-half of the grant is to be worked up to"

4 I desire that this despatch may be communicated to the Government of Madras, with instructions to make further inquiry into the causes of these failures on the part of the local Engineers, and if arising from any want of the cordial co-operation of the Revenue Authorities, or from defective arrangements in the Engineer Department, to take measures to prevent a recurrence of difficulty in carrying out Public Works in Districts which in previous years supplied labour to the Upper Godavery Works, now no longer in operation, and whence it is believed emigration in search of manual labour to the Province of Burmah still prevails

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ORDER —Ordered, that a copy of this despatch be forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, with request that the Government of India may be favoured with a report as to the causes of the short outlay and slow progress on works under construction.

(Signed) G. T. SKIPWITH, Captain, R E,
Asstt. Secy to the Govt of India.

No 78 ORDER THEREON, 2nd April 1873, No 1,023

IRRIGATION, No 5

ORDERED that the following letter be sent —

(Here enter No 1,024, dated 2nd April 1873)
(True Extract)

(Signed) G. W WALKER, Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Government.

Exd S T. Austin

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
FORT ST GEORGE, *2nd April* 1873.

No 79

No 1,024

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

IRRIGATION, No 6

SIR,—With reference to the Order of the Government of India, No 14 I, of the 13th January, I am desired to intimate the surrender, in compliance with the injunctions of paragraph 3 of despatch from the Secretary of State for India to which it gave cover, of the following sums entered in the applications for Loan Funds made by this Government for outlay in the year 1873-74, namely,—

		Rs
No 1	Rooskhoolia Project ..	50,000
,, 4	Extension of Irrigation in the Godavery Central Delta	50,000
,, 5	Unnemoolunka Project	20 000
,, 11	Sungum Project ..	20 000
,, 15	Nerinjeepett Project .	20,000
,, 16	Perryaur Project .	50,0)0
	Making a reduction of	2,10,000

on the total of Rupees 9,06,300 asked for

2. These sums should not, in compliance with standing orders, have been entered in the Irrigation Budget of 1873 74, representing as they do projects which are either immature (Nos 1, 4, 5, and 15), or as Nos 11 and 16, unsanctioned and unlikely to be sanctioned during the year in question Reduced by these sums the Government, I am instructed to say, are sanguine that the Budget allotment will be fully worked up to

3 The particulars furnished in the Report by the Accountant General of the Public Works Department on the Madras Appropriation Account of 1871-72 have been accepted by the Government of India as explanatory to a certain extent of the causes of the short outlay on Extraordinary Works of that year, and it is desirable that the Home Government should be furnished with that report for their fuller information on the subject

4 I am to add that in no case is the short outlay attributable to any want of cordial co-operation of the Revenue Authorities, though it may be ascribed in some measure to defective arrangements in the Engineer Department, such as proposing to carry out work simultaneously all over the Godavery and Kistna Deltas without a sufficiently strong and experienced executive, and in the face of additional openings for labour, both Industrial and Agricultural, which have seriously interfered with its permanent supply in those districts There is no doubt that a considerable rise of the labour rate will have, however reluctantly, to be conceded by the Executive Officers in charge before they effectively compete with the demands which attract it elsewhere and are alluded to by His Grace the Secretary of State

5 I am to add that with a view to the more rapid and effectual execution of works on hand throughout the Presidency, the Government of Madras proposes, when the re-organization of the Public Works Department has been fully tested by a year's working, to submit a detailed report to the Government of India on the result, with suggestions for such moderate additions to the Establishment of that Department as may appear to be absolutely necessary

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G W WALKER, Colonel, R E,

Secretary to Government

To

The Secretary to the Govt
of India P.W.D

Sir

With reference to the resolution of the Government of India, No 14 I dated 15th January 1873, communicating a Despatch of the 4th December 1872, No 110, from the Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the slow progress made on Irrigation works under execution from Loan Funds, during the year 1871-72, and calling for a report on the causes of short outlay & slow progress, I am directed to transmit the

the following observations.

2- Owing to the small strength of the Public Works establishments, this Government are frequently obliged to transfer officers, and a change during the working season is extremely prejudicial to the steady and vigorous prosecution of important works. In the Eastern Delta of the Godavery the completion estimates were prepared by an officer who was obliged soon after to take leave to Europe. He was succeeded by another officer, after an interval, who had within a few months to be transferred to the 6th Division to replace Major Oakes, who had been

been nominated to act as Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in consequence of the death of the officer, who, for a few months, had held that appointment. Thus a second time the works in this Delta were left without an Executive Engineer, and what was still more unfortunate & injurious, though unavoidable, the succeeding Range officers had not the opportunity of receiving regular charge from those whom they succeeded. Retardation of progress is perhaps one of the least evils which frequent changes entail. Works of this class cannot be successfully and economically carried out without an intimate acquaintance with the system

system of irrigation, and considerable local experience, and an officer new to the Delta is not in a position to make rapid progress with works under execution. In the Western Delta of the Godavery the Engineering staff has for a long time past been unequal to the duties to be performed. The Government have been zealously served both by the present Range officer and by his predecessor, but neither of these gentlemen have had that assistance, which is essential to satisfactory progress combined with effective supervision. I am to state that, after a tour of inspection in the Delta made by

by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation at the end of 1870, representations were submitted by that officer as to the increase of Engineering establishment required, and he reported that, pending the appointment of additional Assistant Engineers, it would be necessary to limit expenditure to the amount which could be effectively supervised. Much as the Government regret their inability to meet the various demands for establishments, and the unsatisfactory results of their inadequacy, it would not be right, I am to point out, to move forward the prosecution of works at a rate which would jeopardize

jeopardised their efficiency.

3 The subject of establishments is one which has on many occasions been under discussion of late years. Within the limits laid down by the Government of India, His Excellency the Governor in Council has, I am to say, endeavoured recently to reorganize the Public Works Department in this Presidency, and some considerable improvements have been introduced; but the Chief Engineer has reported in detail the requirements of the principal Irrigation Ranges, & he is of opinion that, for the proper supervision of the Godavery & Kistna Deltas

GOGL No 635 Sq. Lates 8 May 1872.

Deltas, the Pennair system of Irrigation, and the Delta of Tanjore, no less than 12 additional officers of the grade of Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineers are required; in this application the requirements of many other Districts, in which irrigation works hold an important place, have not been considered & are the present strength of the establishment, it is, I am to point out, beyond the power of this Government to provide the officers required, with the exception of a few Assistant Engineers.

4 With regard to the works in the Kistna Delta, I am directed to state that the Madras

had as Government have not been satisfied that as much has been done as might have been accomplished The difficulty of obtaining labour has long interfered to a considerable extent with the rapid execution of work, but it is a difficulty which is not considered insuperable, & it is believed that very much may be done to obviate it. The District Engineer recently appointed has had considerable experience, and the subject of obtaining labour will immediately be taken up by him. Instructions have been issued for his guidance, and full support will be given to him in carrying out the measures which may be found necessary. Should other means fail moreover, the Government will consider the advisability of introducing a labour Act in order to ensure the speedy clearance of the canals on which the irrigation of the Delta depends. The Nile water is often heavily charged with silt, and it has frequently been found impracticable to carry out, during the short season available, the necessary clearances. The Government are naturally disinclined to proceed to legislation until

I am not here-
fore to agree
to this. Compulsory
labour is a far greater
evil than delay
in carrying out
works. It is indeed
a curse of which
Egypt should be a Relief.
which for so long &
heavily has suffered
terrible evils enough
without compulsory - if they
do not be we not
prepared to pay the
telling them so.

until other expedients have been fully tried, but, should these fail, His Excellency in Council is, I am to say, resolved to take whatever measures may be necessary and proper to secure to the people and the State the full benefit of the large past and prospective outlay upon the irrigation works of the Delta.

5. With reference to the Secretary of State's remarks that the reasons given for short outlay on the Palamcotta anicut across the Vellaur in South Arcot, appear to be invalid I

This is a very large question I am not prepared at once to affirm this conclusion

I am directed to say that it is believed that there is much truth in the statement of the effect of frequent changes in the charge of the work, and of the supervising officers. The South Arcot District has been honourably distinguished by the execution of many successful Irrigation works at a moderate cost, and the Government have no reason to suppose that, under more favourable circumstances, this project would have been delayed or carried out otherwise than in a completely satisfactory manner. Between March 1870 and November

November 1872, when the appointment of Superintending Engineer was abolished, 4 officers had charge of the 5th Division, in which Sont-li-Arcot was included, & from the date of the commencement of the work up to the present time 3 officers have been on executive charge of the work. These changes necessarily produced many disadvantages, but they are among the many evil results of an insufficient number of qualified officers to meet the many demands which death, sickness, the grant of furlough & other leaves of absence occasion

occasion. This Government have had before them numerous instances in which very considerable sums of money have been misappropriated, or laid out without corresponding results, owing to executive charges being replaced in incompetent hands, & the Government of India have doubtless had similar experience. It is quite certain too that the, at present, unavoidable practice of entrusting subordinates with separate executive charges is one which occasions the loss of far more money than would suffice to pay for efficient & trustworthy superintendence; while, moreover, the Dept has lost many useful men

men who, had they not been placed in circumstances of temptation, and no charges properly appertaining to better paid and better educated employés, would have continued to render good & effective service.

6. The circumstance I ought to notice in this letter will prepare the Government of India for a more complete report on the wants & requirements of the P.W.D. than has as yet been submitted for their consideration. It will be remembered that the majority of the PW Commissions, on whose recommendations

the changes in the arrangement of the Dept. were to a considerable extent based, consisted of non-professional officers, who could not therefore reduce their proposals to the form of a complete scheme of establishments. The Government, in dealing with the subject, were from incidental circumstances, at a considerable disadvantage, and now that difficulties have arisen which must be faced & provided for, it is necessary to state that the present scale of executive establishment is one which cannot perform the duties of the Dept.

Dept efficiently; and, as soon as possible, the modifications necessary, to enable District Engineers to manage their important charges properly, will be submitted to the Government of India

W.G. 19/2/23

all over the Godavery and Kistna Deltas, without a sufficiently strong and experienced executive, and in the face of additional openings for labour, both Industrial and Agricultural, which have seriously interfered with its permanent supply in those Districts. There is no doubt that a considerable rise of the labour rate will have, however reluctantly, to be conceded by the Executive Officers in charge before they effectively comply with the demands which attract

in a crippled state, demanding that great allowance shall be made for future probable shortcomings. Should it be found that the supply of labour in 1873-74 is such as to permit of a larger demand for Loan Funds in next year, it will have to be accompanied with a call for a proportionate increase of Establishments for such special works as may be undertaken. And in submitting future projects for the sanction of the Government of India it will be the duty of this Government to state what their requirements as to any increase of Establishments, with reference to each work, will be.

Just omit

I would prefer putting in something to the effect of the last para. as the sheet. I dont think we should ask for each new project ask for additions to suit the right system aimed at. We have on D.P.W. of sufficient strength to enable us to undertake a certain number of works from Loan Funds & to carry on ordinary works efficiently when we have devised the new organization. by a year's experience we shall be in a condition to make our recommendations. We know fully well all possible new works, of magnitude. we can judge is what time they can be properly executed & we might to extend our Share of loan money - i.e. the amount wh is required for the execution of our schemes within reasonable time. All this can best be stated in a proposal for the amendment of our new organization

Gwll.

I am asked that, with a view to the more rapid and effectual execution of supply in hand (employment) by a years working the Govt of Madras proposes when the reorganization of the Public Works Debt has been fully tested by it is the intention of the Madras Govt to submit a detailed report to the Govt of India on the result with suggestions for such moderate additions to the permanent Establishment as may be absolutely necessary which will be submitted for sanction. Until before the Govt of India for decision

Jno. Strachey

to create the Madras Govt to the Establishments of the Govt for the works

Circ

1/19 Quadrat 22 Q. 21 [illegible]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

IRRIGATION

To

SECY TO THE GOVT OF MADRAS,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

No 14 I.

Dated January 13, 1873

Received —o— 26 —

Forwards for information, copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, acknowledging receipt of the Progress Report of Extraordinary Irrigation Works in Madras during 1871-72, *and requests submission of a report as to the causes of the short outlay and slow progress on works under construction*

P W D Press—13 1 73—8

P.W. 2644

1024

To

The Secretary to the
Government of India
P.W. Dept.

Sir,

With reference
to the Order of the Govern-
ment of India No 14
I of the 13th January
I am desired to inti-
mate the surrender,
in compliance with
the injunctions of
para 3 of Despatch
from the Secretary of
State for India to
which it gave cover
of

of the following sums
entered in the applica-
tions for Loan Funds
made by the Government
for outlay in the years
1873-74 viz:

No 1. Poothkhoolia Project Rs 50,000
4 - Extension of Irriga-
tion in the Godavery
Central Delta " 50,000
5 - Vinnamodunka Project " 20,000.
11. Sungum Project " 20,000
15. Neringee pett Project " 20,000
16 - Perryaur Project " 50,000

Making a reduction of Rs 210,000

on the total of Rs 906,300
asked for.

These sums should
not, in compliance with
standing

standing orders, have been
entered in the Irrigation
Budget of 1873-74, pre-
-senting as they do
projects which are either
immature (Nos 1, 4, 5
& 15) or as No 11 and 16
unsanctioned and un-
-likely to be sanctioned
during the year in ques-
-tion. Reduced by these
sums the Government
have instructed to say
are sanguine that the
Budget allotments
will be fully worked up
to.

The particulars
furnished in the Report
by the Accountant General
of

of the Public Works Depart-
-ment on the Madras
Appropriation Account
of 1871-72 have been accepted
by the Government of India
as explanatory to a certain
extent of the causes of the
short outlay on Extraordinary
Works of that year; and it
is desirable that it should be communi-
cated to the Home Govt for their fuller information
on the subject.
Leave to add that in
no case is the short outlay
attributable to any want
of cordial co-operation
of the Revenue Authorities
though it may be ascribed
in some measure to de-
-fective arrangements in
the Engineer Department
such as attempting to
carry out work simultaneously
all

the Home Govt. Accounts
furnished with this
Report

2, preparing

all over the Godavery
and Kistna Deltas,
without a sufficiently
strong and experienced execu-
-tive, and in the face
of additional openings
for labour, both Manufac-
-turial and Agricultural,
which have seriously
interfered with its perm-
-anent supply in
those Districts. There is
no doubt that a consid-
-erable rise of the
labour rate will have,
however reluctantly,
to be conceded by the
Executive Officers in
charge before they effec-
-tively complete with the

the demands which attract it elsewhere and are alluded to by His Grace the Secretary of State.

I am to add that with a view to the more rapid and effectual execution of works on hand throughout the Presidency the Government of Madras proposed when the reorganization of the Public Works department had been fully tested by a years working to submit a detailed report to the Government of India on the results with suggestions for such moderate additions to the Establishment of that Department to be as may appear absolutely necessary.

GWW

M.S. Dated 2nd April 1873.
Spare Copies No 15

Cp 378

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Recd. Final

G O. 2nd April 1873. No 1023-1024.

Nos. 77-78 / 79

Extraordinary Irrigation Works. Forwarding Returns &c. from the Govt of India forwarding copy of Despatch from the Secy of State directing a report as to the causes of the short outlay & slow progress on works under construction.

No 77-79.

Cp 378 Govt of Madras

Irrig