M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2303-04	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 270-5272		Mis.
Dated	17. 9.	1953.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND, 17*th September* 1873.

No. 272.

No. 2,304.

FROM

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. MULLINS, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

IRRIGATION, No. 21.

SIR,—In reply to the Assistant Secretary's letter, No. 495 I, dated 4th August 1873, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council much regrets that there is no immediate prospect of a Revenue Report of the Irrigation Works of the Madras Presidency, in the form and detail desired by the Government of India, being completed. After some delay a general return of the Irrigation of the Presidency, showing areas of irrigation, revenue, and other particulars, together with Public Works charges, has been prepared and copies of the Proceedings, in which this return has been reviewed, have been forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

No. 2,089, dated 21st August 1873, with letter No. 2,292, dated 16th September.

2. The more detailed information required for the large works or systems of irrigation will be got together as soon as possible, but I am to say that, though a special officer was appointed some months ago with an establishment for the compilation of the Capital and Revenue Accounts of Irrigation Works, the progress made has unavoidably been slow.

3. His Excellency in Council is fully aware of the importance of ascertaining and reviewing year by year the facts connected with the irrigation of this Presidency; it has, however, been found to be by no means easy to determine the exact circumstances of even the more modern systems of works, and it occupied several years to find out what was the area irrigated by the Godavery works, and what the revenue derived from this area was. This difficulty was due to the circumstance that a large part of the irrigation is in unsurveyed Zemindary lands; that another considerable part appertained to lands entitled to receive water free of charge, and special inquiries had to be made to determine what lands were really thus entitled; then again one or two Zemindars pay a fixed amount for the water-supply received by them, irrespective of the area irrigated, and it is particularly difficult to ascertain for each year the area actually watered.

4. For the Kistna Delta detailed accounts, such as those quite recently obtained for the Godavery, have not yet been completed, but they are under preparation, and it is hoped that they will soon be ready.

5. I am also desired to remark that the recent changes in the organization of the Public Works Department have necessarily made it more difficult for the time to obtain complete information regarding the operations and transactions of the department. The records of the old divisions, consisting of two or three districts, have had to be divided, and District Engineers frequently find that their records are not complete. The district establishments are for the most part weak, and they are unable generally to carry on their current duties in an entirely satisfactory manner; it is almost impossible therefore for them to find time to attend to the investigations and inquiries which, however much the Accounts Branch of the department may be strengthened, must be made by them in order to supply data for the Capital and Revenue Accounts.

6. I am directed to say that every effort will be made to collect the detailed information desired by the Government of India, but that at present the Governor in Council is not sure that this will be possible. The Circular as per margin, from the Accountant General, Public Works Department, to Controllers, indicates, especially in paragraph 16, that an amount of detail is desired which it may be almost impracticable to supply, and which in any case it must cost a great deal to furnish. The Controller's Office certainly does not possess this information, and it will have to be obtained, where obtainable at all, from the District Officers, of whose time far too large a proportion is already occupied in office work, to the detriment of their still more important executive duties.

No. 19, General series, 1873.
" 2, Irrigation do. "

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

Ed. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary.

No. 495 I.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.

To

The Joint Secretary to Govt. of Madras
Public Works Department
Irrigation Branch

Simla 4th August 1873.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to para. 2 of letter from the Government of India No. 941 I of the 22nd October last requesting the submission in future of regular Annual Revenue Reports of the Irrigation Works in the Madras Presidency and to enquire when that for 1872-73 may be expected. I am to observe that it is long overdue and that the report for the following

Lieut. to Dist. 21st July 73
2 Dis

years

year, 1872/3 will also shortly be due

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obed. Servt.
Fraz. Kisperto Capt. R.E.
Asstt. Secretary to the Govt. of India

I should be inclined to convert this draft into a note by the Chief Engineer of Irrigation — and a useful and substantive note it is — for I think that it is on the whole fuller than we usually send in reply to the requisitions for the Government of India. Further I do not like to plead the ephemeral difficulties and natural causes of temporary delay connected with the reorganization

No. 2303
Public Works Dept.
Submitted
12
21
Dated Fort William the 9th Dec. 1872
Received the 13th Dec. 1872
Entered
Recorded
Revenue Department
Revenue Report for 1871-72
The Irrigation Works
in the Bengal Presidency
for 1871-72 will be
submitted
Dec. 1872
No. 2303 dated 9th Dec. 1872
From Secretary to the Govt. of India
To The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Dated 9th Dec. 1872
Received 13th Dec. 1872
Entered
Recorded
Revenue Department
Revenue Report for 1871-72
The Irrigation Works
in the Bengal Presidency
for 1871-72 will be
submitted
Dec. 1872
No. 2303 dated 9th Dec. 1872
From Secretary to the Govt. of India
To The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

reorganization carefully deliberated and deliberately adopted by this Government — as a substantial ground for tardy compliance with the requisition of the Government of India. They are not the effective cause of the delay and difficulty; for which there are substantial & good reasons without impugning a change; with the unimpediency of which there may be those about the Government of India, who will be found only too ready to taunt us.

The

The requisition is for the report of 1871-72 in arrear — a report of this kind in arrear is cannot really be useful. Its review will be into date, while the Collection of anticipated materials will cause even more trouble than if the period were current — Of course the collection so far as it has gone partial as it probably has been will be useful to the Department and at all events the Efforts made will have got our hands in, and facilitate the reduction and compilation of the data procured against the preparation of our first and foundation report, which we should be able to compile either for

for 1872-73 or 1873-74.

I should therefore advise that we tell the Government of India that we reluctantly relinquish all hopes of being able to compile and submit the Report in arrears for 1871-72. in the very detailed form we had sought. I would say that as the Government of India are aware much of the information wanted is not readily available in the accurate form in which it is required and cannot be collected and compiled over the areas involved without an amount of labor and delay and public inconvenience, which the

the Early results probably but partially accurate would be of very Comparatively little use.

I would add that the Government hope that all important information required by the Government of India may be gathered though not in so complete a form from the proceedings of Government noted in the margin and already Communicated to the Government of India.

I would assure the Government of India that the Government fully recognizes the importance of collecting and reviewing yearly all important facts relating to the larger irrigation works of the

this Presidency – and
inform them that an
Officer – of the requisite
Establishment – has
already been detailed
for the special duty
of putting things in train
towards the punctual
transmission from
all parts of the necessary
matter for such an
annual report in
future – and I would
inform them that
the progress already
made in this difficult
and intricate task
justified the hope,
that we shall be able
to submit a full and
satisfactory Report
in the form desired
for the year 1872-73 now
shortly due. But in fact
for 1872-73, at least for 1873-74

I would remind
the Government of India
that the peculiarities
of the Revenue System
of this Presidency throw
very considerable
difficulties in the way
of compiling such returns
in the form required
by the Government of
India in reference
to the old irrigation
works of this Presidency
and that the change
in the System of
Revenue Accounts,
which their preparation
entails in more than
one Department, presents
causes unavoidable
delay.

The Government
of India are aware
that large areas of
Peninsular

boundary and Inam land — in respect to which the Revenue accounts are imperfect — have been brought under irrigation — the newly irrigated areas of which have to be completed — that in some cases water has been supplied at a fixed rate without any accurate relation to the unknown area to be watered — which has now to be ascertained — that large areas of old wet land — whose irrigation has been supplemented either wholly or in part — have to be examined and separated from the areas — often intricately mixed up with them the same holding — which have been converted into

into wet land since the Works were completed — a separation, which involves many intricate and tedious operations, while other delays and obstructions arising from much the same causes have to be adjusted and overcome and before really accurate accounts of the revenue due by irrigation can be made out. These difficulties and others which will readily suggest themselves to the Government of India constitute the causes of delay which we cannot obviate in however much we may regret them.

We might remind the

the Government of India that it took years to ascertain the exact position of matters relating to the revenue due to irrigation in the Godavery District, and tells them that similar difficulties delay the completion of the accounts for the Krishna Works. This progress has however now formed the special arrangement inaugurated by this Government and they do not anticipate much further disappointment.

1/2

No. ~~2970~~ 2304

To

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

Sir

In reply to the Assistant Secretary's letter, No. 495 I, dated 4th August 1873, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council much regrets that there is no immediate prospect of a Revenue Report of the Irrigation works of the Madras Presidency in the form and

and detailed statistics
by the Govt of India,
being completed. Af-
ter some delay a
general return of
the Irrigation of
the Presidency, show-
ing areas of irriga-
tion, revenue & other
particulars, together
with Public works
charges has been
prepared & copies
of the Proceedings, in
which this return
has been received,
have been forwarded
for the information
of the Government
of India.

2 The more detail-
ed information re-
quired for the large
works or systems of
Irrigation will be got
together

No 2089 dt 21 Aug 73.
with Letter No 292
d/16 Sept

17

together as soon as
possible, but I am to
say that, though a
special officer was
appointed some months
ago with an esta-
blishment for the
compilation of the
Capital & Revenue ac-
counts of Irrigation
works, the progress
made has unavoid-
ably been slow.

3 His Excellency
in Council is fully aware
of the importance
of ascertaining year by year
the facts connected
with the Irrigation
of this Presidency;
it has however been
found to be by no
means easy to deter-
mine the exact cir-
cumstances

circumstances of even the more modern systems of works, it occupied several years to find out what was the area irrigated by the Godavery works, & what the Revenue derived from this area was. This difficulty was due to the circumstance that a large part of the irrigation is in unsurveyed Zemindary lands; that another considerable part appertained to lands entitled to receive water free of charge, and special enquiries had to be made to determine what lands were really thus entitled

entitled; then again one or two Zemindars pay a fixed amount for the water supply received by them, irrespective of the area irrigated, and it is particularly difficult to ascertain for each year the area actually watered.

4. For the Kistna Delta detailed accounts such as those quite recently obtained for the Godavery, have not yet been completed, but they are under preparation, and it is hoped that they will soon be ready.

5. I am also desired to remark that the recent changes in the organization of the Public

Public Works Dept have necessarily made it more difficult for the time to obtain complete information regarding the operations & transactions of the Dept. The records of the old Divisions consisting of 2 or 3 Districts, have had to be divided, & District Engineers frequently find that their records are not complete. The District establishments are for the most part weak, and they are unable generally to carry on their current duties in an entirely satisfactory manner; it is almost impossible therefore for them to to find time to attend to the investigations and enquiries which, however much the accounts branch of the Dept may be strengthened, must be made by them in order to supply data for the Capital & Revenue accounts.

6. I am directed to say that every effort will be made to collect the detailed information desired by the Govt of India, but that at present the Governor in Council is not sure that this will be possible. The Circular as per margin, from the Accountant General P.W.D. to Executive Engineers, indicates especially

Public

No 19 General series 1873.
" 2 Irrigation

pecially in par-
-16, that an amount
of detail is desired
which it may be al-
most impracticable
to supply, and which
in any case it must
cost a great deal
to furnish. The Con-
troller's office cer-
tainly does not pos-
ess this information,
and it will have
to be obtained where
obtainable at all
from the District
officers, of whose
time far too large
a proportion is al-
ready occupied in
office work, to the
detriment of their
still more important
executive duties.

Lwk 25/8/73

LWW

A 270-72 Defendants 1 & 18/8/73

No 4868

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O. 17 dated Sept 1873, No. 2303-2304

Nos. 270-271 & 272

Revenue Report of Irri. Cabinet Works. Passing Orders on letter from the Govt of India Enquiring when the Revenue Report for 1871/72 will be submitted & intimating that the Report for 1872/73 will shortly be due.