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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	784	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
266A-266B		
Dated	13-3-	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 265. From the District Engineer, Kistna District, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Masulipatam, 28th January 1873, No. 15.

With reference to your memorandum No. 337, dated 31st December, I have the honour to report on the subject of protecting certain villages in Rapalli Taluq from floods.

2. The whole of the villages referred to in the Collector's letter, printed with G. O., No. 1,543, dated 13th November 1872, which accompanied your memorandum, are situated on the lunkas of the Kistna, and the question now raised is not, I really believe, as to the obligation of Government to embank the villages in order to prevent a loss of human life, but the necessity of protecting the lunka or strips of land lying within the river embankment, on which the villages are situated, from floods.

3. This view of the case is taken by the Acting Collector, see paragraph 5 of his letter, No. 2,291, dated 4th September 1872, to the Board of Revenue, and is supported by the facts that in the highest floods no lives have been lost, and that the villagers although they were brought to promise at first to pay a moiety of the cost of putting up the embankments now refuse to pay anything. If the villagers were in fear of their lives, they would not, I think, be ready to draw back from the engagement they made.

4. The fact is, I believe, that the original embankments were put up at the expense of Government at a time when the river was not fully embanked, and since the western bank channel has been excavated and the river bank raised above the highest flood, nothing has been done to the village embankments, and the villages are, therefore, now liable to be flooded. The depth of water at the village sites is never very great, and accustomed as the people are to moving about the country when it is almost under water, they have no great fear of being washed away, but they want the erection of a bund along the river margin of the lunka to keep the flood water off the lands as well as out of their villages.

5. The expense of maintaining such a bund can hardly be estimated. When the western bank channel was excavated it was dug* from 150 to 300 yards inland,

* See Superintending Engineer's letter No. 15, dated 1st December 1869, to Collector, in G. O., No. 374, dated 19th March 1870.

in places where the action of the river on the margin was causing considerable erosion, and the lunka thus formed contained several of these villages. If the

lunka is to be embanked it will be necessary to prevent the erosion by training the river, probably by groynes, and the expense of works of this nature is very great. Several instances have come under my notice in the Godavery District in which it has been necessary to throw back the river embankment in consequence of the cutting away of the lunka, and in so doing to leave whole villages or considerable parts of them unprotected, the loop of the old embankment forms a protection to the village thus left; but when once it falls into the river or becomes worn down below the high flood level the village is subject to inundation, and the villagers then remove their houses to the other side of the bank. In these cases no compensation is given, and it seems to me that the case of the Rapalli villagers is precisely a similar one, only on a larger scale.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th March 1873.*

6. I do not consider that it is the duty of Government to permanently protect these villages and their lands. All land within the river embankments must be considered as unfit for the location of permanent buildings, and ground having been provided on which to erect their houses outside the embankment, villagers should be warned to remove to it, or remain at their own risk. It appears from the Collector's letter above referred to that land has been offered to these villagers, but they decline to remove; it is probable, however, that they would move if a fair compensation were granted to them towards their expenses in removing and re-building their houses; and I would recommend that instead of expending a large sum in erecting embankments for the preservation of the villages, compensation for removing, according to a scale to be decided on by a Committee appointed for the purpose, should be offered to the villagers once and for all, and I think the villages would soon be reconstructed on safe sites. I do not allow that the villagers have this claim on Government; as pointed out in similar cases elsewhere no compensation has been given, and the grant on this occasion would form a precedent which of course would be taken advantage of in future occasions, but the case is certainly an exceptional one and the grant of compensation may be made exceptional also.

No. 100.

No. 265 A. ¹³
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

FROM the letter of the District Engineer, Kistna, it will be seen that the villages of the Rapalli Taluq, which it has been proposed to ring-bund, are situated on the river side of the embankments which have been thrown up to protect the delta generally. These embankments are as close to the river as is considered prudent; and, as remarked by Major Hasted, the unprotected margin between the river and the embankments cannot be considered a suitable locality for a village. It would not be advisable to place embankments close to the river margin, even were it practicable, at a reasonable expense, to prevent their being undermined, for in high floods the waterway of the river would be diminished, and the breaching of the embankments would, with other damage, probably follow.

2. For similar reasons it would, I think, be inadvisable to ring-bund the villages; these bunds would obstruct the flow of water; they would prove frequently but an unreliable safeguard, and might augment instead of diminish the danger to which these villages are exposed.

3. There can be but little doubt, I think, that the proper remedy is the removal of the villages to the west side of the river embankments. There does not seem to be much danger to life in letting them remain where they are, if the villagers prefer to be left alone, but they might once more be allowed the option of removal, and be informed, if that decision be come to, that the Government have resolved not to construct any embankments outside the general bank for the protection of this part of the delta.

4. With regard to the question of compensation to those who may remove their dwellings, it appears to me that if, as supposed by the District Engineer, embankments were formerly constructed by Government for the protection of these villages, the inhabitants have some claim to be helped. The Public Works Department

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th March 1873.*

ment can hardly be deemed liable to find the money, as what has been done by it is to place safety within a moderate distance of these villages, but it cannot be of much consequence whence the money, which the Government may decide to give, may come, and either Miscellaneous Public Improvement or Agricultural Ordinary might bear the charge.

YALoor, (Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
20th February 1873. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 266. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1873, No. 787.

IRRIGATION, No. 36.

ORDERED that these papers be communicated to the Revenue Department, with reference to G. O., No. 1,543, of the 13th November 1872, with the opinion of Government in this department that no embankments can safely be constructed on the river side of the general embankment for the protection of the Western Delta.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" District Engineer, Kistna.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No 15

District Engineer
Office Kishinadi
Camp Masulipatam

From

28th January 1872

Major J. Hasted R. E.

District Engineer Kishinadi

To

Lieut. Colonel J. Mullins R. E.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Sir,

With reference to your Memorandum No 337 dated 31st December, I have the honor to report on the subject of protecting certain villages in Rayachoti Taluk from floods -

2. The whole of the villages referred to in the Collector's letter, printed with G.O. No 1543 dated 13th Nov^r 1872, which accompanied your Memo, are situated on the banks of the Krishna, and the question now raised is not, I really believe, as to the obligation of Government to embank the villages in order to prevent a loss of human life, but the necessity of protecting the banks or strips of land lying within the river embankment, on which the villages are

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District Engineer
Office Kishinadi
Camp Masulipatam

From

28th January 1873

Major W. H. O. C.

District Engineer Kishinadi

To

Lieut. Colonel J. Mullins R.E.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Sir,

With reference to your Memorandum No 337 dated 31st December, I have the honor to report on the subject of protecting certain villages in Rayachoti Taluk from floods -

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situated, from floods.

3. This view of the case is taken by the acting Collector, see para 5 of his letter No 2291 dated 4th September 1873, to the Board of Revenue, and is supported by the facts that in the highest floods no lives have been lost and that the villagers although they were brought to promise at first to pay a moiety of the cost of putting up the embankments now refuse to pay anything - If the villagers were in fear of their lives they would not, I think, be ready to draw back from the engagement they made.

4. The fact is, I believe, that the original embankments were put up at the expense of Government, at a time when the river was not fully embanked, and since the western Bank Channel has been excavated and the river bank raised above the highest flood, nothing has been done to the village embankments and the villages are therefore now

liable to be flooded. The depth of water at the village sites is never very great, and accustomed as the people are to moving about the country when it is almost under water, they have no great fear of being washed away, but they want the erection of a bund along the river margin of the lunka to keep the flood water off the lands as well as out of their villages.

5. The expense of maintaining such a bund can hardly be estimated - When the western Bank Channel was excavated it was dug from 150 to 300 yards inland, in places where the action of the river on the margin was causing considerable erosion, and the lunka thus formed contained several of these villages. If the lunka is to be embanked it will be necessary to prevent the erosion by training the river, probably by groynes and the expense of works of this nature is very great - Several instances have come under my notice in the Godavery District,

* See Supchug's letter No 15 dated 1st December 1869. to Collector in G.O. No 374 dated 19 March 1870.

in which it has been necessary to throw back the river embankments, in consequence of the cutting away of the *luika*; and in so doing to leave whole villages or considerable parts of them unprotected, the loss of the old embankment forms a protection to the villages thus left, but when once it falls into the river or becomes worn down below the High Flood level, the village is subject to inundation, and the villagers then remove their houses to the other side of the bank. In these cases no compensation is given, and it seems to me that the case of the Rapulli villagers is precisely a similar one, only on a larger scale.

b. I do not consider that it is the duty of Government to permanently protect these villages and their lands. All land within the river embankments must be considered as unfit for the location of permanent buildings and ground having been provided on which to erect their houses outside the embankment, villagers should

be warned to remove to it, or remain at their own risk - It appears from the Collector's letter above referred to, that land has been offered to these villagers but they decline to remove, it is probable however that they would move, if a fair compensation were granted to them towards their expenses in removing and re-building their houses, and I would recommend that instead of expending a large sum in erecting embankments for the preservation of the villages, compensation for removing according to a scale to be decided on by a Committee appointed for the purpose, should be offered to the villagers, once and for all, and I think the villages would soon be re-constructed on safe sites - I do not allow that the villagers have this claim on Government; as pointed out in similar cases elsewhere no compensation has been given, and the grant on this occasion would form a precedent which of course, would be taken advantage of

in future occasions, but the
case is certainly an exceptional
one and the grant of Compensation
may be made exceptional also.

I have the honor to be
Your most obed^t servant

John A. Smith. Major M. C.

West Engineer District

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

From the letter of the District Engineer Kistna, it will be seen that the villages of the Repalli Taluk, which it has been proposed to ring round, are situated on the river side of the embankments which have been thrown up to protect the Delta generally. These embankments are as close to the river as is considered prudent; and, as remarked by Major Hasted, the unprotected margin between the river & the embankments cannot be considered a suitable locality for a village. It would not be advisable to place embankments close to the river margin, even were it practicable, at a reasonable expense, to prevent their being undermined, for in high floods the waterway of the river would be diminished, and the breaching of the embankments would, with other damage, probably follow.

2. For similar reasons it would, I think, be undesirable to ring round the villages: these bunds would obstruct the

Rev. 10 March 1870
 12 Dec 1872 - 97 miles

15
 12/150

J. R. N.
 The District Engineer
 Kistna

37.
 The Chief Engineer
 Irrigation

8th Jan 1873
 12 Dec 1872

Deposited for transfer in
 Kistna Taluk
 The village is on the Repalli
 Taluk side of the river

10/17-18 March 1873

12/150
 12 Dec 1872

the flow of water; they would prove frequently but an unreliable safeguard, & might augment instead of diminish the danger to which these villages are exposed.

3. There can be but little doubt, I think, that the proper remedy is the removal of the villages to the West side of the river embankments. There does not seem to be much danger to life in letting them remain where they are, if the villagers prefer to be left alone, but they might one more be allowed the option of removal, and be informed, if that decision be come to, that the Govt. have resolved not to construct any embankments outside of this part of the Delta.

With regard to the question of compensation to those who may remove their dwellings it appears to me that if, as supposed by the District Engineer, the embankments were formerly constructed by Govt. for the protection of these villages, the inhabitants have some claim to be helped. The Public Works Dept.

13c
Dept. can hardly be deemed liable to find the money, as what has been done by it is to place safely within a moderate distance of these villages, but it cannot be of much consequence whence the money, which the Government may decide to give, may come, and either Miscellaneous Public Improvement or Agricultural Ordinary might bear the charge.

Yalor 27
20 February 1873

Whitcomb St. C. P. R.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

The Secretary to Govt. P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the Feb 1873

Read the following:-

(A.R. No. 100 of 20th Feb/73)

Ordered that these papers be communicated to the Revenue Department, with reference to G.O. No 1543 of the 13 November 1872, with the opinion of Govt in this Dept. that no embankments can safely be constructed on the river side of the general embankment for the protection of the Western Delta.

Wij. 21/4/73

Sum

The National Association
of the Blind is
the National Association

To Mr. Ramsdell ✓
Ch. Engen for Engen ✓
" St. Engenian Mission ✓

P. M. 1873 Newark
"Wingfield" brand
No. 1000.

From 8.12.39.

The Chief Leaf. Indian

To the Secy to Govt
Jan. 8.

Revd 20 Feb. 73
Dec 24 - a

Book one

Regarding the protest
of that village in the
Khabuli taluk of
the Kachua District

10/26/54/1302.25x

8th 787-13th Street 173.

Ch 1239

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Revenue Dept.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 13th Decr. No. 787.

No. 2657266

Villages in Repalli Taluk.

Kistna District. Reports,

Submitted by the Chief Sarg
for Emigration, as to the
measures to be adopted
for their protection from
inundation.