M.R.O. 1—10,006—23-2-50.

(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. 2658-59 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis. 6874

Dated 17-9- —195-.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 382. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Tanjore, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 1st September 1874, No. 869 :—

I HAVE the honor to bring to the notice of Government that the curtailment of the allotments under Minor New Works and Repairs, Agricultural, for 1873-74 made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and notice of which was received in this office, for the first time, in the penultimate month of the official year, has been the occasion of a number of works executed in that year being left unpaid for at the end of the year, and has, as a consequence, occasioned the current year's allotment, especially under Repairs, to be absorbed to a considerable extent, by payments made in the early months of this year for the work so executed in 1873-74.

G. O., No. 976, dated 14th April 1874.

2. The sum thus paid from the current year's allotment amounts to Rupees 45,089, or nearly one-third of the allotment,* leaving only two-thirds, or about Rupees 1,10,000, for expenditure on work sanctioned for this year.

* Rupees 1,55,000.

3. The amount of estimates sanctioned up to date for work urgently required under Repairs, Agricultural, is Rupees 2,00,291, or nearly double the actually available allotment.*

* Rupees 1,07,000.

4. In G. O., No. 1,546, dated 12th June 1874, the Government remark that the District Engineer will take care to realize the proportionate share of funds for the district in future years, but I cannot see how the District Engineer can be held responsible for the very serious loss of funds in which this district was mulcted last year, and which cramps its action this year to an extent that is detrimental to the proper conservancy of the Irrigation works.

5. Major Mead, in his statement of surrenders and further demands submitted to Government for 1873-74, represented that a sum of Rupees 1,60,000 was required for Agricultural Repairs, or Rupees 5,000 in excess of the Budget allotment, and he had arranged to expend this sum before the close of the year. The Budget allotment,* however, as has been remarked by him in paragraph 3 of his letter to Government, No. 1,120, dated 10th March, embodied in G. O. No. 1,546 quoted above, was itself curtailed to an extraordinary extent for the benefit of more favored districts, the annual revenues of which are, in each case, less than that of this district.

*Rupees 1,55,000.

6. I can find nothing on the records of this office to cause the District Engineer to have suspected that so large a per-centage would be suddenly withdrawn from the allotment for Repairs. The expenditure, up to the end of the third quarter of 1873-74, was Rupees 81,787, against Rupees 88,619 for that of the previous year, in which the total expenditure had been, in round number, Rupees 1,51,000.

7. In this district it is always in the first and last quarters of the year, but especially in the last quarter, that the bulk of the work can be executed, as it is in

these quarters only that the rivers are, as a rule, dry. And when, as was the case last year, the allotment is suddenly withdrawn at the very height of the working season, a great amount of most necessary work, in the plantation of nanul grass for the protection of river banks, had to be stopped for want of funds, although it is on this service especially that the safety of the banks and the salvation of the delta largely depend.

8. We have had this year an extraordinarily high flood, the highest since 1858, but fortunately with comparatively little damage to the delta. This immunity may be fairly attributed to the great improvements that have been made in recent years to the river banks, and it is probable that the loss that has occurred this year would have been mitigated but for the unfortunate withdrawal of one-third of the year's allotment precisely at the time when its expenditure could have been best utilized. This reduced allotment, it may be added, represents less than 2½ per cent. on the annual land revenue, and such an allotment cannot be considered a fair proportionate outlay, when the realization of so high a revenue as that of Tanjore is at stake.

9. In this connection I would call your attention to the following curious facts. In G. O., dated 15th October 1873, No. 2,516, the statement of expenditure on Agricultural Repairs for June 1873 shows that in one district (the Godavery) an expenditure of Rupees 73,119, or nearly double the sanctioned allotment, Rupees 40,000, had been incurred without any corresponding increase in the amount of sanctioned estimates, and yet the only remark made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on such an expenditure, incurred as it would appear to have been in defiance of all authority, is that "the Godavery District has done well."

10. Although the amount of sanctioned estimates for the Tanjore District, viz., Rupees 2,62,225, was more than 30 per cent. higher than the highest of any district in this Presidency, viz., that of the Chingleput District (Rupees 2,05,830), the latter received double the allotment of this district, which, as before stated, was mulcted of more than one-third of its usual annual allotment.

11. As regards the Minor New Works allotment for 1873-74, I would beg to point out that Major Mead, in his statement of surrenders and further demands submitted to Government, proposed to expend the full Budget allotment of Rupees 10,000, but this allotment also has been treated by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as in the case of repair allotment, and reduced to Rupees 8,316. The amount of work done under this head in 1873-74, but paid for out of the current year's grant, is Rupees 750, added to which must be the sum of Rupees 10,000 granted in the Budget, making a total sum of Rupees 10,750, or, in round number, Rupees 11,000 required for expenditure in the current official year. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in his memorandum, No. 552, dated 31st July last, intimates to me that "no additional allotment beyond the Budget grant of Rupees 10,000 will be available for works within the amount, which can be sanctioned locally, so far as is at present known."

12. The amount of estimates sanctioned under this head, up to date, is Rupees 13,501, inclusive of the works left incomplete at the end of the past official year, and the expenditure incurred up to the end of July last is Rupees 7,202, and

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17*th September* 1874.

thus the unexpended balance, out of the Budget grant of Rupees 10,000, is only Rupees 2,798 left for expenditure during the remaining eight months of the year. At the lowest computation a sum of Rupees 11,000 will be required for expenditure in 1874-75 under this head, and I solicit that Government will be pleased to allot Rupees 1,000 in excess of the Budget grant on my monthly applications to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for additional grants.

13. In conclusion, I beg very respectfully, but very forcibly, to point out to Government that the withdrawal of one-third of last year's allotment for Agricultural Repairs hampers, to a detrimental extent, the action of this department, and it will continue year after year to be a drag on the district until the money is replaced. This is no question of deferring the repairs of tanks that may be postponed for a year or two, without any particular hazard, until funds are available for the same, but it is for the maintenance of river banks and works by the neglect of which the revenue is jeopardized. It cannot be too clearly understood that it is not possible to maintain these works properly under a minimum expenditure of 1½ lakhs per annum, and that the withdrawal of any portion of an allotment to that amount invites ruin to the works, and a fall in the revenue quite incommensurate with the outlay held back.

No. 383. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1874, No. 2,658.

IRRIGATION, No. 51.
Account.

THE Superintending Engineer in charge of Tanjore is informed that the subject of short allotment of Agricultural Repair funds to that district in 1873-74 was finally disposed of in G. O., No. 1,546, of 12th June. His letter will be communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with instructions to comply with the Superintending Engineer's requisitions as far as may be compatible with the claims and interests of other districts and the Agricultural allotment available.

2. Application will again be made to the Government of India in continuation of letter, No. 252, of 14th July, for an increase of the Agricultural grant for Repairs.

(Here enter No. 2,659, dated 17th September 1874.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND, *September 17th*, 1874.

No. 384.

No. 2,659.

FROM

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

To

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

IRRIGATION, No. 52.

Account.

SIR,—I am directed to invite attention to my letter of the 14th July 1874, No. 1,886, and under the circumstances therein explained to request that the early sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the additional assignment of Rupees 1,32,950 applied for under Repairs Agricultural, recent reports having confirmed previous anticipations as to the insufficiency of the current year's grant and the urgent necessity of its being supplemented.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

No. 869

Supg. Engineer's Office
Tanjore 1st September 1874.

From

Lieutt Col R. A. Roberts RE
Superintg. Engineer Tanjore

To

Colonel G. W. Walker RE
Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government that the curtailment of the allotments for Minor New Works and Repairs, Agricultural for 1873-74, made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and notice of which was received in this Office for the first time in the penultimate month of the Official Year, has been the occasion of a number of works executed in that year being left unpaid for at the end of the year, and has

as

as a consequence, occasioned the current years allotment, especially under Repairs, to be absorbed to a considerable extent by pay= =ments made in the early months of this year for the work executed in 1873-74.

2. The Sum thus paid from the current years allotment amounts to Rs. 45,089, or nearly one third of the allotment, leaving only two thirds, or about 110,000 Rupees for expenditure on works sanctioned for this year.

3. The amount of Estimates sanctioned upto date for work originally required under Repairs, Agricultural, is Rs. 200,291 or nearly double the actually available allotment.

4. In G.O. No. 1546, dated 12 June 1874, the Government remark that the

District Engineer will take care to realize the proportionate share of funds for the District, in future years; but I cannot see how the District Engineer can be held responsible for the very serious loss of funds in which this District was mulcted last year, and which cramps its action this year to an extent that is detrimental to the proper conservancy of the Irrigation works.

5. Major Mead in his statement of Surrenders and further demands, submitted to Government for 1873-74, represented that a Sum of Rs. 160,000 was required for Agricultural Repairs, or Rs. 5000 in excess of the Budget allotment, and he had arranged to expend this Sum before the close of the year. The Budget allotment, however, as has been remarked

remarked by him in paras 3 of his letter to Government No. 1120, dated 15 March, embodied in G.O. No. 1546 quoted above, was thereby curtailed to an extraordinary extent for the benefit of more favored Districts, the annual receipts of which are, in each case, less than that of this District.

6. I can find nothing on the records of this Office to cause the District Engineer to have suspected that so large a percentage would be suddenly withdrawn from the allotment for Repairs. The expenditure up to the end of the 3rd Quarter of 1873-74 was Rs. 81,787 against Rs. 88,619 for that of the previous year, in which the total expenditure had been, in round number Rupees 151,000.

7. In this District it is always in the first & last Quarters of the year, but especially in the last Quarter,

that the bulk of the work can be executed, as it is in these Quarters only that the rivers are, as a rule, dry. And when, as was the case last year, the allotment is suddenly withdrawn at the very height of the working season, a great amount of most necessary work, in the plantation of Kaul grass for the protection of River banks, had to be stopped for want of funds, although it is on this Service especially that the safety of the banks and the salubrity of the delta largely depend.

8. We have had this year an extraordinarily high flood, the highest since 1858, but fortunately with comparatively little damage to the delta. This immunity may be fairly attributed to the great im=
=provements that have been made in

in recent years to the river banks; and it is probable that the loss that has occurred this year would have been mitigated but for the unfortunate withdrawal of 1/3rd of the year's allotment precisely at the time when its expenditure could have been best utilized. This reduced allotment, it may be added, represents less than 3½ per cent on the annual land revenue; and such an allotment cannot be considered a fair proportionate outlay, when the realization of so high a revenue as that of Tanjore is at stake.

9. In this connection I would call your attention to the following curious facts. In G.O. dated 15th October 1873, No. 2516, the Statement of Expenditure on Agricultural Repairs for June 1873 shows that in the Godavery District an expenditure of Rs. 73,119 or nearly double the sanctioned allotment, Rupees 40,000, had been incurred without any corresponding increase in the amount of sanctioned Estimates and yet the only remarks made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on such an expenditure, incurred, as it would appear to have been, in defiance of all authority, is that "the Godavery District has "done well".

10. Although the amount of sanctioned Estimates for the Tanjore District, viz. Rs. 262,225, was more than 30 per cent higher than the highest of any District in this Presidency, viz. that of the Chingleput District (Rupees 205,830) the latter received double the allotment of this District, which

which, as before stated, was mulcted of more than 1/3rd, of its usual annual allotment.

11. As regards the minor new works allotment for 1873-74, I would beg to point out that major Mead in his statement of Surrenders and further demands, submitted to Government, proposed to expend the full Budget allotment of Rupees 10,000, but this allotment also has been treated by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as in the case of Repair allotment, and reduced to Rs. 8316.— The amount of work done under this head in 1873-74, but paid for out of the current years grants is Rupees 750, added to which must be the sum of Rs. 10000 granted in the Budget, making a total sum of Rupees 10750, or, in round number, Rupees 11,000 required for expenditure in

the current Official year. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in his Memo No. 552, dated 31st July last, intimates to me that "no additional allotment beyond the Budget grant of Rupees 10000 will be available for works within the amount which can be sanctioned locally, so far as is at present known."

12. The amount of Estimates Sanctioned under this head up to date is Rs. 13501, inclusive of the works left incomplete at the end of the past Official year, and the expenditure incurred up to the end of July last is Rs. 7202, and thus the unexpended balance out of the Budget grant of Rs 10000, is only Rupees 2798 left for expenditure during the remaining 8 months of the year. At the lowest computation

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a Sum of Rupees 1000 will be required for Expenditure in 1874-75 under this Head, and I solicit that Government will be pleased to allot Rs 1000 in Excess of the Budget Grant, on my monthly applications to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for additional grants.

13. In Conclusion I beg very respectfully but very forcibly to point out to Government that the Withdrawal of 1/3rd of last years allotment for Agricultural Repairs hampers to a detrimental Extent the action of this Department, and it will continue year after year to be a drag on the District, until the money is replaced. This is no question of deferring the repairs of tanks that may be postponed for a year or two, without any particular hazard, until funds are available for the same, but it is for the maintenance of river banks and works, by the neglect of which the Revenue is jeopardized. It cannot be too clearly understood that it is not possible to maintain these works properly under a maximum Expenditure of 1½ lakhs per annum, and that the withdrawal of any portion of an allotment to that amount invites ruin to the works, and a fall in the Revenue quite incommensurate with the outlay held back.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Richd Rogers Lieut Col RE
5th

Superintg Engineer Tanjore

Public Works Department
Proceedings of Madison Grove
Road Trustees

From
The Supervising Engineer
Eastern Division
Sanjose

To
The Secretary to Govt.
P.W.D.

No. 869

Dated 1st September 74
Received 4 " "

Ref No. 2658 / 1874.

Brings to notice that the curtailment of the allotments under Agricultural Repairs and minor irrigation works in 73-74 had caused the current years allotment to be absorbed by payments made for works completed in last year

The Superintending Engineer in charge of Sanjose division forwards that the amount of estimate for the allotment of Agricultural Repairs

- entitled Report

Hands that Division

- last year 1873-74

was finally disposed of in G.O. No. 1564 of 12th June - this letter will be communicated to

L.W. 1874 Department
Works Roads & Buildings
No. 3564.

The Supt. Engineer
Sanjose

To the Secretary to Govt.
P.W.D.

No. 869

Dated 1st September 74
Received 4 " "

Ref No. 2658 / 1874.

Brings to notice that the curtailment of the allotments under Agricultural Repairs and minor irrigation works in 73-74 had caused the current years allotment to be absorbed by payments made for works completed in last year

No. 382

Read to Govt. 6 Sept 1874 No. 1120

Irrig. Br
S. & D. Deptt

2659

To

The Secy: to the Govt
of India.

Sir,

I am directed to
invite attention to
my letter of the 14th
July 1874, & 1886, and
under the circum-
stances therein ex-
plained to request
that the early sanc-
tion of the Govt
of India may be
accorded to the addi-
tional assignment
of Rs 1,32,950 applied
for

to the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation with in-
structions to comply
with the Supdg Engineers
requisitions as far
as may be compatible
with the claims and
interests of other
Districts and the
Agricultural allot-
ment available.
Application will
again be made
to the Govt of In-
dia, in continu-
ation of letter No
252 of 14th Jan 8, for
an increase of
the Agricultural
Grant for Repairs.

Signed

38 E- 384.

D. 14 Sept 74 Rec 16
Cir 10/9/74 Ret 12/9/74

Wrong
Office

To the S.E. Tanjore
& Chief Engr for Irrig
& Capies dated 23/9/74.

for under Repairs
Agricultural, recent
reports having con-
-firmed previous
anticipations as to the
insufficiency of the
current years grant
and the urgent neces-
-sity of its being
supplemented.

Gov.

b. Copies desp. 23/9/74.

384.
Ord. 14 Sept/74
Rec'd 24/9/74
Circ 6/9/74

5564

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Recd. Encl.

2658

G. O. 17 Sept 1874, No. 2659

Nos. 382-384.

Grant for repairs to tanks &c in made to the Govt of India —

Requesting that under the circumstances explained in letter No. 1886 of 14 July /74 the early sanction of the Govt of India may be accorded to the additional assignment of Rs-1,32,950 applied for under Repairs Agricultural

Agricultural Repairs & Minor New Works Tanjore Dt.—

~~The letter from the Govt~~ Letter from the Secy: bringing to notice that the curtailment of the allotments under ——— in 1873/74 had caused the Current Years allotment to be absorbed by payments made for works completed in last Year, Comd to the Chief Engr for Secy: with certain instructions & application for an increase of the Agricultural