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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	393	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	12-2	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 278. Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, dated Camp at Duggirala, 20th November 1874, No. 111.

From Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Kistna, to G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of Kistna District, dated Camp at Bezwada, 18th November 1874, No. 146.

WITH reference to your endorsements, Nos. 1,688 and 1,689, dated 14th October 1874, on letters forwarded by you to the Board of Revenue, recommending that the Zemindars of Nuzeed and Devaracota shall be allowed to compound the water-tax of their estates for ten and five years respectively, I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

2. The water-tax paid by the Zemindar of Nuzeed during the last five years has varied from Rupees 21,525-2-2 to Rupees 15,129 after deducting remissions; the amount he offers to compound for is Rupees 19,100, the average of these five years. This arrangement would appear to be a fair one, but it must be remembered that improvements are now being carried out under which the supply of water to the main canals will be better than it has hitherto been, and the Zemindar will get the advantage of an improved supply without any charge.

3. The water-tax paid by the Zemindar of Devaracota during the last five years has varied from Rupees 22,205-7-0 to Rupees 11,683-4-10, after deducting remissions.

The average of the five years is Rupees 15,610-11-10, the Zemindar offers to compound for Rupees 14,000. The highest year of the five was Fasli 1278, the lowest Fasli 1281. The wet cultivation appears therefore to have been falling off of late years, though you have mentioned that a great excess of water has been already taken in anticipation of the composition being sanctioned. This means that the Zemindar is willing to take water if he has not to pay for it, and he attempts further to improve matters by offering a sum of Rupees 1,600 less than the least he has yet been called on to pay. In this Zemindari, arrangements are being made for improving the supply, and also for the better drainage of the land; if these works are even partially carried out in the next five years the Zemindar will reap the advantage, and no return will be made to Government for the expenditure.

4. Were there nothing else to be said against the arrangement I should object to it, but there are several reasons, I think, why it is not advisable to make such concessions to Zemindars.

5. We will suppose that one of the Zemindars, whose cultivation in last year has been 5,000 acres, on the strength of having compounded his water-tax, applies for water for 10,000 acres this year. It will depend under which channels the land is situated, but it is very probable I shall not be able to increase the supply to the extent required; if I can, he may only cultivate 6,000 acres, and, in a time of scarcity, be receiving a more than ample supply of water, while the crops of Government villagers, who pay their full water-tax, are being starved.

6. In the present incomplete state of the channels there is great difficulty in supplying even the existing cultivation fully when the season is dry and the river low; there are many applications made for extension of cultivation near the

end of the channels by Government villagers who are willing to pay the full amount of water-tax, and they should be attended to in preference to Zemindars who do not propose to pay full water-tax.

7. The distribution of water to Zemindari lands is always a matter of difficulty, as the exact extent of wet cultivation is not known, and there is every reason to believe that a great deal of water is wasted in Zemindari villages, while complaints are continually being made that the supply is insufficient. Without some check on the actual distribution of water to the fields this evil would be increased by extending the cultivation on contract.

8. The object in giving the Zemindars a contract of this kind is, I presume, to induce them to extend wet cultivation. Hitherto Zemindari villagers have been backward in applying for water, and it has been supposed that there is consequently a decided objection among the ryots to use the Kistna water for irrigation, the principal cause assigned being the old complaint of 'soudu.' I am convinced that there is no such general objection to irrigation; that 'soudu' is a cry and nothing else; that Government villagers nearly everywhere will take water for irrigation if it can be supplied to them steadily, and that the reason Zemindari villagers are backward is that the Zemindars have assessed wet cultivation beyond the ryot's endurance. I consider the increase of cultivation of late years, most satisfactory, and I feel assured that as the channels are extended, and the supply of water improved, there will be no difficulty in getting land taken up. Under these circumstances I do not consider it advisable to supply water to Zemindari lands without charging the full amount of water-tax.

FORWARDED to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for information.

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,
Supg. Engr., 1st Division, Kistna.

No. 1,061.

No. 278-A. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

THE subject discussed in the letter of the Superintending Engineer, Kistna, to the Collector, is a very important one, and, whatever the ultimate decision of Government may be, the arrangements sanctioned and their effect will require to be very clearly set forth in connection with the delta completion estimates.

2. It appears to be proposed by the Collector to allow certain Zemindars to compound for an unlimited supply of water by a fixed payment, which apparently is to be based upon the average payment made for water during recent years. It is to be anticipated that, should this composition be sanctioned, irrigation in the Zemindaries will be considerably extended, and, if so, the Government will obtain no direct return whatever from the additional area irrigated. This might be a matter of little consequence were there always water to spare, but there is no water to spare at present, and there are Government lands in several directions the irrigation of which must be postponed until the supply has been increased.

3. Additional water can be obtained only by the outlay proposed in the completion estimates, and, if these are to be sanctioned at all, it will be necessary to show that there will be fair return upon the outlay.

4. If water for Zemindaries be not specially provided in the estimates, it is clear that it cannot be supplied, as what may be carried by the canals will be intended for, and will have to go to, other sub-sections of the delta. What every canal and every principal distributary will supply has to be decided in preparing the project, and thereafter, without such modifications as the particular circumstances may require, no material alteration of the distribution can be made.

5. So far it has been assumed upon the facts of the delta irrigation hitherto, that comparatively small area within the limits of Zemindaries will be irrigated, and consequently it has not been proposed to carry much water on their account. The question as to what are the prospects of irrigation in these Zemindaries has

recently been remitted to the Revenue
G. O., No. 2,844, dated 7th October 1874. Department for consideration, and upon

the information which will thus be obtained the canals affected by this question will be finally designed and arranged. If a large increase of area, without a corresponding increase of the revenue in the shape of water-rates, be shown to be the probable direction which extension of Zemindary irrigation would take, it is not difficult to predict that the water for such extension is not likely to be forthcoming.

6. If in order to avoid the difficulties attending the determination yearly of actual areas irrigated in Zemindaries, a composition for water-rate is considered desirable; this composition should, I think, be based on actual quantities supplied. The canals are designed to carry two cubic yards per acre per hour, and it would be perfectly simple to determine on this basis the charge for the water-supply of any tract of country. It would have also the collateral advantage of leading to a careful use of the water taken.

7. Lastly, it may be noticed that, as it cannot be desirable to promise what it may be impracticable to perform, it would seem to be necessary before any arrangements are concluded with the Zemindars, that the effect of those, which may be proposed by the Revenue Officers, on the estimates and on the direct returns from outlay, should be duly considered.

CAMP, GUNGVULLY, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
16th December 1874. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 279. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1875, No. 393.

IRRIGATION, No. 17.

THE foregoing papers will be communicated to the Revenue Department for early consideration with reference

to the important observation of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Revenue Department.
Sd. S. T. Austin.
Two Copies

N 146

Suff Engrs Office 1st on 16
Camp. Bignada
18th November 1874
5th

From,

Major J. O. Hasted R.E.
Suff Engineer 1st on 16

To, G. D. Lewan Esquire
Collector of District

Sir,

With reference to your endorse-
ments N^o 1688 and N^o 1689 dated
14th October/74 on letters forwarded
by you to the Board of Revenue
recommending that the Zamindars
of Muzed and Denaracota shall
be allowed to compound the
water tax of their estates for
10 and 5 years respectively, I
have the honor to offer the
following remarks.

2. The water tax paid by the
Zamindar of Muzed during the
last 5 years has varied from
Rupees 21525-2-2 to Rupees 15129
after deducting remissions, the
amount he offers to compound
for is Rupees 19100, the average of
these 5 years. This arrangement
would appear to be a fair one, but
it must be remembered that im-
provements are now being carried
out under which the supply of
water

water to the main canals will be better than it has hitherto been, and the Zamindar will get the advantage of an improved supply without any charge.

3. The water tax paid by the Zamindar of Dandaraota during the last 5 years has varied from Rs 22205-7-4 to Rs 11683-4-10 after deducting remissions.

The average of the 5 years is Rs 15610-11-10 the Zamindar offers to compound for Rupees 14000. The highest year of the 5 was fusi 1278, the lowest fusi 1281. The wet cultivation appears therefore to have been falling off of late years, though you have mentioned that a great excess of water has been already taken in anticipation of the compensation being sanctioned. This means that the Zamindar is willing to take water if he has not to pay for it, and he attempts further to improve matters by offering a sum of Rupees 1600 less than the least he has yet been called on to pay. In this Zamindari arrangements are being made for

for improving the supply and also for the better drainage of the land, if these works are even partially¹⁵ carried out in the next 5 years, the Zamindar will reap the advantage, and no return will be made to Government for the expenditure.

4. Were there nothing else to be said against the arrangement, I should object to it, but there are several reasons, I think, why it is not advisable to make such concessions to Zamindars.

5. We will suppose that one of the Zamindars whose cultivation in last year has been 5000 acres, on the strength of having compounded his water tax, applies for water for 10000 acres this year. It will depend under which channels the land is situated, but it is very probable, I shall not be able to increase the supply to the extent required; if I can, he may only cultivate 6000 acres and in a time of scarcity, he receiving a more than ample supply of water, while the crops of Government villagers who pay their full water tax

Tax, are being started.

6. In the present incomplete state of the channels, there is great difficulty in supplying even the existing cultivation fully, when the season is dry and the rivers low; there are many applications made for extension of cultivation near the end of the channels by Government villagers who are willing to pay the full amount of water Tax, and they should be attended to in preference to Zamindars who do not propose to pay full water Tax.

7. The distribution of water to Zamindari lands is always a matter of difficulty, as the exact extent of wet cultivation is not known, and there is every reason to believe that a great deal of water is wasted in Zamindari villages, while complaints are continually being made that the supply is insufficient. Without some check on the actual distribution of water to the fields, this evil would be increased by extending

extending the cultivation on Contract. 95

8. The object in giving the Zamindars a contract of this kind is, I presume, to induce them to extend wet cultivation. Hitherto, Zamindari villagers have been backward in applying for water, and it has been supposed that there is consequently a decided objection among the ryots to use the Kistna water for Irrigation, the principal cause assigned being the old complaint of 'Sodu'. I am convinced that there is no such general objection to Irrigation, that 'Sodu' is a cry and nothing else, that Government villagers nearly every where will take water for Irrigation, if it can be supplied to them steadily, and that the reason Zamindari villagers are backward is that the Zamindars have assessed wet cultivation beyond the ryots' endurance. I consider the increase of cultivation of late years, most satisfactory, and I feel assured that as the channels are extended, and the supply of water improved, there will be no difficulty in getting land taken up. Under these

Circumstances

circumstances, I do not consider
it advisable to supply water to
Zamindari lands without charging
the full amount of water tax.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

Signed J. O. Haeker Major R.E.
Suff Engr 1st Br
Kistna

No 111 / True copy /

Forwarded to Chief Engineer
for Irrigation for information.

Wk. actd. Major R.E.

Suff Engr 1st Br Kistna

Suff Engrs Office 1st Br 12
Camp Duggirala }
20 November 1874 - }

No 1061

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The subject discussed in the letter of the Superintending Engineer, Hisma, to the Collector is a very important one, and, whatever the ultimate decision of Government may be, the arrangements sanctioned and their effect will require to be very clearly set forth in connection with the Delta completion estimates.

2 It appears to be proposed by the Collector to allow certain zemindars to compound for an unlimited supply of water by a fixed payment, which apparently is to be based upon the average payments made for water during recent years. It apparently is anticipated that, should this proposition be sanctioned, irrigation in

1801/11
1531/11/2227
The Superintending Engineer
Hisma
To the Chief Engineer
Irrigation
Dated 29 November 1874
1874/27
The Commencing of the
of the Delta, Hisma
irrigation, and the
zemindars of the
and Demarcation
should not be allowed
to compound the water
tax of the Delta for
10 and 5 years respectively
for the reason herein
mentioned
11/11/22/25

in the Zemindaries will be considerably extended, and, if so, the Government will obtain no direct return whatever from the additional area irrigated.

This might be a matter of little consequence were there always water to spare, but there is no water to spare at present, and there are Government lands in several directions the irrigation of which must be postponed until the supply has been increased.

3 Additional water can be obtained only by the outlay proposed in the completion estimates, and, if these are to be sanctioned at all, it will be necessary to show that there will be a fair return upon the outlay.

4 If water for Zemindaries be not specially provided in the estimates, it is clear that it cannot be supplied, as what may be carried by the Canals will be intended for, and will have to

go to, other subsections of the Delta. - What every canal and every principal distributary will supply has to be decided in preparing the project, and thereafter, without such modifications as the particular circumstances may require, no material alteration of the distribution can be made.

5 So far it has been assumed, upon the facts of the Delta irrigation hitherto, that comparatively a small area within the limits of Zemindaries will be irrigated, and consequently it has not been proposed to carry much water on their account. The question as to what are the prospects of irrigation in these Zemindaries has recently been reinitiated to the Revenue Department for consideration, and upon the information which will thus be obtained the canals affected by this question will be finally designed and arranged. If a large

G.O. 12544, dated
7 Oct-74

large increase of area, without a corresponding increase of the revenue in the shape of water rates, be shown to be the probable direction which extension of zemindary irrigation would take, it is not difficult to predict that the water for such extension is not likely to be forthcoming.

6 If in order to avoid the difficulties attending the determination yearly of actual areas irrigated in zemindaries, a composition for water rate is considered desirable, this composition should, I think, be based on actual quantities supplied. The Canals are designed to carry 2 cubic yards per acre per hour, and it would be perfectly simple to determine on this basis the charge for the water supply of any tract of country. It would have also the collateral advantage of leading to a careful use of the water taken.

7 Lastly it may be noticed that,

175
as it cannot be desirable to promise what it may be impracticable to perform, it would seem to be necessary before any arrangements are concluded with the zemindars, that the effect of those, which may be proposed by the Revenue Officers, on the estimates and on the direct returns from outlay, should be duly considered.

Camp at
Gungavally
16th December 1871.

W. H. Mullins
Lieut Col. R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

To
The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

P. W. 1895 Dept.
Proff for February

No: 302
From
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
To The Secretary of Int.
P. W. D.

N 1061

Dated 16th Dec 74.
Recd 18 January 1875.
Encl 1

No. 993. 12-2-75.

On the subject
of Zemindars being
allowed to com-
pound the water
tax of their Estates

10278

Feb 23-1-75
6-21-1-75

Proceedings of the head and foot
Read the following

From,
The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation } (H. E. D. 10618/16 Dec 74)

393

The foregoing papers will be
communicated to the Revenue
Department [it being, as pointed
out by the Chief Engineer
for Irrigation, clearly necessary
that Government should
be committed to provide
the Zemindars of the Kistna
Delta with water, to an ex-
tent which may vary con-
siderably, and perhaps -
exceed

exceed present anticipations,
without making due provision
for such increase in the ex-
timate ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~under~~ ^{under} prepara-
tion, and without fully-
considering what effect ^{on the returns to be derived} ~~on the returns to be derived~~
from outlay the proposed
arrangements with the
Zemindars will have.

Wm. 12/12/74

Wm.

302 ✓

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Engineer
Madras

Dated

Recd.

Encl. / 398

G. O. 12 Feb. 1875, No. ~~298~~

Nos. 278-279

Water Tax

Papers relating to
Zemindars being
allowed to compound
the water tax of their
Estates, commd to the
Revenue Department for
early consideration with
reference to the observations
of the Chief Engineer for District