(1) Number of pages 32

(2) Date of repair -9-89

(3) Initials of the Referencer lova ✓

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 2001 W Press. / Mis.

Dated 15.8.1881 ~~198~~.

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Archives —I 10,006-9 80

2001
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

15th August 1881, No. 2,001 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 54. Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, dated 13th April 1881, No. 634.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th February 1881, No. 349 (Current No. 609.)

From N. A. ROUPELL, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Nílgiris, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th February 1881, No. 4.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of letter, dated 5th instant, No. 210, received from the Local Fund Engineer, Nílgiris, reporting on the land-slips which occurred on the Coonoor New Ghât early in December last.

2. Mr. O'Shaughnessy deserves credit for the rapidity with which the obstructions were removed. On the fourth day after the land-slips cart traffic was resumed along the entire length of the ghât.

3. The rainfall detailed in paragraph 6 of the enclosure was doubtless very heavy, but I apprehend not unprecedented. It appears to me that the only safeguard against such occurrences as those under report must be found in the reconversion into woodland of a belt of land from 200 to 300 yards wide, according to the character of the growth, immediately above the ghât. Such woodland already exists in sufficient abundance in many places, but where it has been cleared the precipitation of rain-water is so intense that the catch-drains and culverts become choked and are practically useless for the protection of the road. Land-slips having once appeared will unquestionably recur unless some such plan as that above indicated be adopted. Extensive stone revetments would involve very heavy outlay and would very imperfectly fulfil their purpose unless the catch-drains and culverts were kept open.

4. Under the Settlement scheme recently proposed for this district, cases of encroachment upon Coonoor Ghât lands are being considered and will be treated with special regard to the security of the ghât roads. For a considerable distance elsewhere land will have to be taken up under Act X of 1870 (An Act for the Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes), and the compensation payable will, I fear, be heavy. The safety of the roads, however, is of paramount importance, and I see no other way of avoiding future accidents.

5. Mr. Jamieson, to whom I wrote for his suggestions as to the best trees and shrubs for the protection belt, has not yet replied.

6. If the Government will be pleased to adopt the proposal of a ghât protection-belt, in the necessity for which Mr. O'Shaughnessy fully concurs, the probable cost of such a scheme can then be ascertained and reported.

7. The Local Fund Engineer encloses a bill for Rs. 1,030 spent in clearing away the land-slips and putting the ghât in good order. As this expenditure is

altogether extraordinary and the means of the Local Fund Board are slender, I have the honor to request the Government may be moved to make a special grant of the amount.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Local Fund Engineer's Report.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement of the Number and Extent of Land-slips.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Estimate.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The extraordinary expenditure (Rs. 1,030) incurred in removing the obstructions to traffic on the Coonoor Ghât caused by land-slips during the heavy rains of November should, in the Board's opinion, be met by a grant from Provincial Funds.

3. The Commissioner's proposals for protecting the ghât roads by marginal woodland belts might receive consideration in the Public Works Department.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

THE Governor in Council sanctions a grant of Rs. (1,030) one thousand and thirty, from the Provincial Grant for Local Fund Works, for meeting the extraordinary expenditure referred to in the foregoing papers.

2. The proposals of the President, Local Fund Board, Nílgiris, for protecting the ghât roads by belts of woodland will, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, be referred to the Public Works Department for consideration.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 54-A. *Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.*

WITH reference to G.O. of 13th April 1881, Financial Department, No. 634, the undersigned begs to submit his opinion that a dense belt of the most suitable shrubs and trees for binding the soil should be established as quickly as possible wherever there may be cleared ground immediately above the Coonoor Ghât road.

2. Precisely the same question cropped up in Coorg in 1864, where one road, that leading out of Mercara towards Verajendrapett, was almost destroyed from the land-slips due to injudicious clearance of the forest immediately above for coffee planting.

3. Fortunately in the case alluded to, the estate becoming neglected the rapidly growing shrub "*lantana*" quickly took possession of the ground, and held up the soil, so that lately there have been few slips here.

4. On most of the Coorg roads somewhat similar results followed clearances for coffee cultivation, and the Administration had to take serious steps towards counteracting the injury.

5. In taking action towards the establishment of a jungle belt of even 50 yards in width great opposition and difficulties had to be encountered, much of the land being planted with coffee and very valuable, and the width of the belt had to be very much restricted owing to the heavy demands for compensation.

6. It might be desirable, before deciding on further action in the matter of the Coonoor Ghât, to ascertain the facts and experience furnished by Coorg.

2001/2

7. In addition to a jungle belt a system of upper catch-drains, if under the inspection and command of the Local Fund Engineer, would doubtless be useful; but, as a rule, such drains on very steep ground, and where especially the land above has had its surface moved for planting, soon get choked in very heavy falls of rain, if not instantly attended to, breach and do much mischief.

OOTACAMUND,
27th April 1881.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer.

No. 25.

TRANSFERRED to the Financial Department.

OOTACAMUND,
27th April 1881.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Endorsement of the Financial Department.

No. 827.

RETRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department with a request that the inquiries referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chief Engineer's note may be made in that Department.

7th May 1881.

No. 54-B. From the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, dated 13th May 1881, No. 1,202 W.

THE President of the Local Fund Board of the Nílgiris has recently brought to notice the recurrence of land-slips at certain places along the Coonoor Ghât where, owing to the clearance for cultivation and other purposes of the jungle on the upper slopes, the soil has become exposed. It is understood that somewhat similar results followed the extensive clearances made above most of the Coorg roads for coffee cultivation, and that the Coorg Administration were compelled to take active measures for counteracting the evil.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council would be glad to be favored with information as to the precise measures adopted in Coorg, their approximate outlay involved, and the results so far as they have become known, to serve as a guide in dealing with the case above adverted to.

No. 54-C. From Colonel W. R. JOHNSON, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Bangalore, 27th July 1881, No. 650-3,116.

IN reply to your No. 1,202, dated 13th May 1881, requesting information as regards the precise measures adopted, &c., for preventing the recurrence of land-slips along the ghât roads in Coorg, I am desired by the Chief Commissioner to inform you that no measures appear to have been so far practically adopted, and that therefore he is unable to supply the Madras Goverment with the information they require.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1881, No. 2,001 W.

THE Commissioner of the Nílgiris will be requested to investigate more minutely, and report on, the question raised in his letter of the 8th February 1881, No. 4.

2. It should be ascertained where the land required for the protective belt is still at the disposal of Government, and where, and for what measured length it has been made over to private owners; the probable cost involved in the acquisition of required strips being also stated.

3. The report should be accompanied by an illustrative sketch map.

4. The difficulty brought to notice is due to neglect by local authorities of the positive instructions of Government against allowing the gorge to be denuded of wood.

5. The arrangements now in force to prevent such denudations should be stated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
„ Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

2001/3

6

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NILGIRIS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 15*th*.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 15*th August* 1881, *No.* 2,001 W.

AUGUST.
Nos. 54-55.

Preventing land-slips along the Coonoor Ghât.—The Commissioner of the Nílgiris to investigate and report on the measures to be adopted for —.

P. 1

2001/4

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

13th April 1881, No. 634.

Provincial Services.

Read the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th February 1881, *No.* 349 [*Current No* 609].

Read the following letter from N. A. ROUPELL, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Nílgiris, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th February 1881, No. 4:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of letter, dated 5th instant, No. 210, received from the Local Fund Engineer, Nílgiris, reporting on the land-slips which occurred on the Coonoor New Ghât early in December last.

2. Mr. O'Shaughnessy deserves credit for the rapidity with which the obstructions were removed. On the fourth day after the land-slips, cart traffic was resumed along the entire length of the ghât.

3. The rainfall detailed in paragraph 6 of the enclosure was doubtless very heavy, but I apprehend not unprecedented. It appears to me that the only safeguard against such occurrences as those under report must be found in the reconversion into woodland of a belt of land from 200 to 300 yards wide, according to the character of the growth, immediately above the ghât. Such woodland already exists in sufficient abundance in many places, but where it has been cleared the precipitation of rain-water is so intense that the catch-drains and culverts become choked and are practically useless for the protection of the road. Land-slips having once appeared will unquestionably recur unless some such plan as that above indicated be adopted. Extensive stone revetments would involve very heavy outlay and would very imperfectly fulfil their purpose unless the catch-drains and culverts were kept open.

4. Under the Settlement scheme recently proposed for this district, cases of encroachment upon Coonoor Ghât lands are being considered and will be treated with special regard to the security of the ghât roads. For a considerable distance elsewhere land will have to be taken up under Act X of 1870 (An Act for the Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes), and the compensation payable will, I fear, be heavy. The safety of the roads, however, is of paramount importance, and I see no other way of avoiding future accidents.

5. Mr. Jamieson, to whom I wrote for his suggestions as to the best trees and shrubs for the protection belt, has not yet replied.

6. If the Government will be pleased to adopt the proposal of a ghât protection-belt, in the necessity for which Mr. O'Shaughnessy fully concurs, the probable cost of such a scheme can then be ascertained and reported.

7. The Local Fund Engineer encloses a bill for Rs. 1,030 spent in clearing away the land-slips and putting the ghât in good order. As this expenditure is altogether extraordinary and the means of the Local Fund Board are slender, I have the honor to request the Government may be moved to make a special grant of the amount.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Local Fund Engineer's Report.
ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Statement of the Number and Extent of Land-slips.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Estimate.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The extraordinary expenditure (Rs. 1,030) incurred in removing the obstructions to traffic on the Coonoor Ghât caused by land-slips during the heavy rains of November should, in the Board's opinion, be met by a grant from Provincial Funds.

3. The Commissioner's proposals for protecting the ghât roads by marginal woodland belts might receive consideration in the Public Works Department.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1881, No. 634.

The Governor in Council sanctions a grant of Rs. (1,030) one thousand and thirty, from the Provincial Grant for Local Fund Works, for meeting the extraordinary expenditure referred to in the foregoing papers.

2. The proposals of the President, Local Fund Board, Nílgiris, for protecting the ghât roads by belts of woodland will, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, be referred to the Public Works Department for consideration.

(True Extract.) C. S. Lawson
Offg. Under Secy P.W.D.
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Board of Revenue, with 3 enclosures returned.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raitt.

2001/5

O. Pr 1881 [illegible]

No. 24/2

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 13th.

Issued

Recd.

G.O., 13th April 1881, No. 634.

C.R. No. 25 of 27th April/81.

APRIL.

Provincial Services.—A grant of Rs. 1,030, from the Provincial Grant for Local Fund Works, for meeting the extraordinary expenditure incurred in removing the obstructions to traffic on the Coonoor Ghât caused by landslips during the heavy rains of November 1880, sanctioned. The proposals for protecting the ghât roads by belts of woodland, referred to the Public Works Department for consideration.

Ack 23-4-81 [illegible]

I think the Commr. shd. be told to go into the question wh. is raised more minutely, ascertaining whether the land requiring for the protective belt is still at the disposal of Govt. or whether that measured length it has been made over to private owners. The difficulty is due to neglect by local authorities of the positive instructions of Govt. agst. allowing the forests to be denuded of wood. W.H.

Obld. 3/7/7 – Cir 4/8 – Retd 5/8

20/11 W

For orders

The annexed reply from the Resident at Mysore shows that I was mistaken in supposing ~~that~~ measures had as a fact followed the discussion which arose regarding the land & road slips in Coorg due to clearances for coffee cultivation –

It was proposed to take up on the part of Government a margin of land immediately on the upper sides of the roads with a view ~~to~~ encourage a dense jungle growth but I remember ~~that~~ the compensation due for the acquirement even the narrow

as excessively high
and in all probability
it was chiefly owing to
e exorbitant nature of the
emands made that the
riginal idea had to be
bandoned

Subsequently most of the
estates where the slips
ccurred on the Sampaji
& Perambadi (Ghauts)
ere abandoned as being
oo much exposed &
Coffee planters moving
east to the "bamboo"
plantations the jungle on
the old estates grew
up again, and the question
of the slips failed to
ttract further notice
was become a burning
uestion for some years
quent to my first
t in 1864

18/81

GOVT. OF MADRAS. } 1881. { P. W. DEPT.

SECRETARY. 2001/1

Chepauk, 23-4- 1881.

OFFICE NOTE.

To W.

Order of Govt. No 634
dated 13th April 1881 -

Proposals of the President
Local Fund Board
Nilgiris. for protecting
ghat roads by belts of
wood land - Referred
to P.W.D. for consideration

In orders -

CCM
Byw

Recd 23/4/81

---

p 2

P. W. Dept
CURRENT No. 1042

Note by the Chief Engineer

With reference to G.O. of 13th April 1881 Financial Department No 634 the undersigned begs to submit his opinion that a dense belt of the most suitable shrubs and trees for binding the soil should be established as quickly as possible wherever there may be cleared ground immediately above the Coonoor Ghaut road.

2. Precisely the same question cropped up in Coorg in 1864 where one road, that leading out of Mercara towards Verajendrapett, was almost destroyed from the land-slips due to injudicious clearance of the forest immediately

above for coffee planting.

3. Fortunately in the case alluded to the estate becoming neglected the rapidly growing shrub "Lantana" quickly took possession of the ground and held up the soil so that lately there have been few slips here.

4. On most of the Coorg roads somewhat similar results followed clearances for coffee cultivation, and the Administration had to take serious steps towards counteracting the injury.

5. In taking action toward the Establishment of a jungle belt of even 50 yards in width, great opposition and difficulties had to be encountered, much of the land being planted with coffee and very valuable, and the width of the belt had to be very much restricted owing to the heavy demands for compensation.

6. It might be desirable before deciding on further action in the matter of the Coonoor Ghaut to ascertain the facts and experience furnished by Coorg.

7. In addition to a jungle belt a system of upper catch drains if under the inspection and command of the Local Fund Engineer would doubtless be useful, but, as a rule such drains on very steep ground, and where especially the land above has had its surface moved for planting, soon get choked in very heavy falls of rain, if not instantly attended to, breach and do much mischief.

R. H. Sankey
Colonel R.E.
Chief Engineer

Ootacamund
24th April 1881

Pr. 2896/81

P 4

No 25

Transferred to the
Financial Depart-
-ment-

R H Sankey
Col. R.E.
Secy: to Government
P.W.D.

Ootacamund
27th April 1881.

209/6

P.W.C. A 2896

Financial 1881 Deptt:

(L. Fds: - Roads)

Recd 13 May /81

From

The Pub: Works Deptt:

No. 25.

Dated 27th

Recd: 28th April 1881

CURRENT No. 1042

Transferring to Finl: Deptt: Note by the Chief Engineer as to the advisability of establishing, as quickly as possible wherever there may be cleared ground ~~above~~ immediately above the Coonoor Ghat road, a dense belt of the most suitable shrubs & trees for binding the soil –

P 5

No. 827.

Retransferred to the Public Works Dept. with a request that the inquiries referred to in para 6 of the Chief Engineer's note may be made ~~in~~ that Dept.

7th May 1881.

No. 1202 W.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

To

The Chief Commissioner of Coorg

13th May 1881.

Sir,

The President of the Local Fund Board of the Nilgiris has recently brought to notice the recurrence of land slips at certain places along the Coonoor Ghaut where, owing to the clearance ~~removal~~ for cultivation and other purposes

R.S.

the jungle on the upper slopes of ~~[illegible]~~, the soil has become exposed. It is understood that somewhat similar results followed the extensive clearances made along most of the Coorg roads for coffee cultivation, and that the Coorg Administration ~~[illegible]~~ were compelled to take active ~~[illegible]~~ measures in ~~to~~ counteracting the evil.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council would be glad to be favored with information as to the precise measures adopted in Coorg, their approximate

cutting involved ~~[illegible]~~ and the results so far as they have become known, to serve as a guide in dealing with the case above ~~of ghat roads on the~~ adverted to ~~Nilgiris~~

3/5/81

Desd
14-5-81

B № 1202 W of 13 May 1881

№ 660/3116. Coorg Chief Commissioner's Office
Public Works Department
Bangalore 27th July 1881.

From,
Colonel W. R. Johnson, 200/13
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
of Coorg P. W. dept.

To,
The Secretary to the
Government of Madras.
Public Works Department

Sir,

In reply to your No. 1202 + W. dated 13th May 1881, requesting information as regards the precise measures adopted &c. &c. for preventing the recurrence of land-slips along the Ghaut Roads in Coorg, I am desired by the Chief Commissioner to inform you, that no measures appear to have been so far practically adopted, and that therefore he is unable to supply the Madras Government with the information they require.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
W. Johnson Colonel
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
of Coorg P. W. dept.

Number,
Madras

B. No 1202 W. d/ 13th May 1881.

P. W. C. No 4369

187/.

From

The Secretary to the
Chief Commissioner, of Coorg
Department Public Works.

To The Secretary to the
Government of Madras
Public Works Department

Dated Bangalore 27th July 1881.

Despatched

Received 1 Aug. 81

ENCLOSURES NO.

General No. 660 / No. 3116 } 1881.

Intimating that the information regarding the precise measures adopted &c. &c. for preventing the recurrence of land slips along the Ghaut Roads in Coorg is not available.

Sent back M.D.C. 2.8.81 R. 13/8/81

P.L. 37/7

A

From orders

No. 2001 W.

P. W. Department.

P.G.

R.M.
Work

2001
/14

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15 Augt 81

READ the following

Proceedings, Financial Dept (A.E. No. 634 d/ 13th April 1881)

Note by the Chief Engineer I.W.D. (" " " d/ 27th ")

Endorsement by the Do (" " 25 d/ do)

Do by the Financial Dept (" " 827 d/ 7th May ")

Letter to the Commissioner of Coorg (" " 1202 W d/ 13th " ")

Do from do (" " 660/3116 d/ 27th July ")

The Commissioner of the Nilgiris will be requested to investigate more minutely, and report on the question raised in his letter of the 8th February 1881 No. 4

R.P.

2. It should be ascertained where the land required for the protective belt is still at the disposal of Govt., and where, and for what measured length, it has been made over to private owners; the probable cost involved in the acquisition of required strips being also stated.

3. The report should be accompanied by an illustrative Sketch Map.

4. The difficulty brought to notice is due to neglect by local authorities of the positive instructions of Government against allowing the Gorge to be denuded of wood.

5. The arrangements, now in force, to prevent such denudations should be stated.

10/5/81

Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
Financial Dept

(To The ~~Chief~~ Secretary
for counter ~~initials~~)

Lcs 11/
25-8-8

34/4

2001/16

4369

Govt. of {1881} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 15 Augt 1881, No. 2001 W

Nos. 54-55

Preventing land slips along the Coonoor Ghaut. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris to investigate and report on the measures to be adopted for —

Entd in Receipt Regr